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# Records of Mediæval Oxford.

## Coroners' Inquests, the Walls of Oxford, Etc.

EDITED BY

THE REV. H. E. SALTER, M.A.,

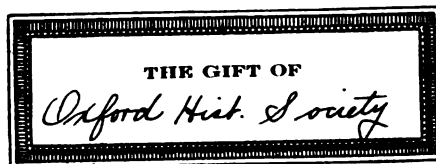
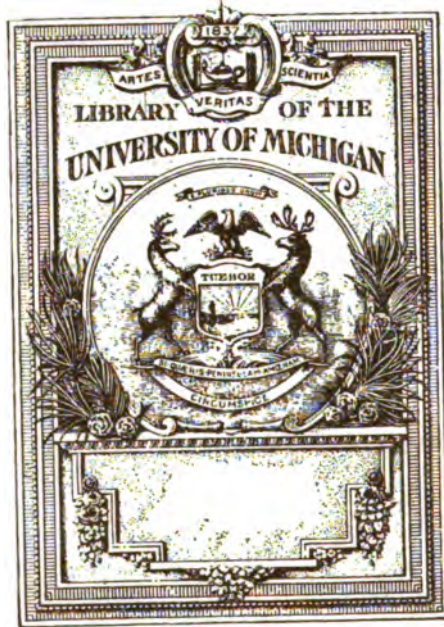
New College, Oxford.

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# PREFACE.

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The Coroners' Inquests and other papers which are contained in this volume appeared in the "Oxford Chronicle" in 1909 and 1910. It must be confessed that the material was supplied to the Editor not from a desire to instruct the readers of the "Chronicle," but that by any means some of the records of Oxford might be printed for the benefit of those to come, and the condition was made that before the type was distributed copies should be struck off and subsequently issued as a book. It is to be hoped that those who find this volume servicable will feel gratitude both to the Editor, who was willing to try the patience of his readers, and to those of his readers who assured him that they found the weekly doses palatable. It was necessary, of course, to give the deeds, not in their original Latin, but in an English version, and it was only fair to moisten their dryness by notes of a popular character; yet it is hoped that these records are in a form which will be found adequate by serious students of history. In fact, the latest writer on the subject, Dr. J. C. Cox, has quoted in his book on Sanctuaries two of the inquests which appeared in the columns of the "Chronicle." Coroners' Inquests use fixed terms to such an extent that one who is familiar with mediæval records will have little difficulty in restoring the original Latin from the English version.

If some of those who acquire this book are tempted to find fault because it is not issued in that sumptuous form which is supposed to be fitting for antiquarian publications, let them remember the proverb about due behaviour to a gift horse. They have here, practically at cost price, what in other towns or counties would either cost four times as much, or be unattainable; for, as far as is known, of no other town have all the Coroners' Inquests been printed. The publishers have incurred expenses, such as the printing of the Indexes, to which they were by no means bound, and it would be a matter for regret if by their public spirit they found themselves out of pocket.

In the course of making the Index a few errors have been noticed. On page 15, line 27, "Hoderige" should be "Toderige"; on page 20, line 2, "Aylim" should be "Aylun"; and in line 15 "part of" should be inserted after "although"; on page 28, line 10, "de" should be "le"; on page 27, line 35, "Peyntoun" should be "Peyntour"; and on line 5 of the next page, the heading of the Inquest on page 38 should be "Thomas Payn," not "Henry Wynne," and on page 40, "Richard le Mason," not "Henry le Mason."

H. E. SALTER.

Dry Sandford, Abingdon, Sept. 20th, 1911.

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# Records of Mediæval Oxford.

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## CORONER'S INQUESTS.

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During the course of 1907 and 1908 the wills of the inhabitants of Oxford from the year 1320, as found in the "Liber Albus," were printed in the "Oxford Chronicle," and were subsequently issued in a paper volume; in the present book will be found a second series of miscellaneous records of mediæval Oxford, beginning with Coroner's Inquests.

A coroner is, as the name implies, an officer appointed to protect some of the interests of the Crown. In the Middle Ages all offences were viewed as a source of profit to that court which had the trying of the case; and the coroner's duty was to see that the King was not defrauded of cases which should come before his court. Cases of murder and death by misfortune were, in particular, reserved to the King, and from the days of Edward I. the main work of a coroner was, as now, to hold an inquest whenever there was a sudden or violent death. It was his business to make inquiry what was the cause of death, and should there be any perquisites of the King, such as the goods and chattels of the felon, he must state what was their value. Subsequently, when the judges came on circuit to hold Assizes, the case would be tried by them, but the record drawn up by the coroner at the time of the inquest was placed before them, and not only insured that the case should not be overlooked, but also served as evidence.

When a dead body was found, the following was the due procedure in the Middle Ages. He who found the body must at once raise the hue and cry; else there would be grave suspicion that he

was the cause of the death. In the next place, all who were within hearing must run to the spot, and any parish or township that was slack in following up the hue was amerced. Next, the coroner was detached, viewed the body, and measured and recorded the wounds. He would then summon a jury, in most cases from the four nearest parishes or townships, the number of the jury varying, as will be seen, from twelve to thirty, according as the coroner thought fit. This jury served, not to hear evidence, but to supply it, and stated from their own knowledge or from hearsay what had happened. The verdict of the jury might be "Natural death," or "Misadventure," or "Suicide" ("felon in his own case" to use their term), or murder; in the first case, the King received nothing; in the second, the cause of death was forfeited to the King, and he received its value; in the last two cases, the goods of the felon were forfeited to him. It was the coroner's business to record the whole process in his roll, and to secure that the first finder of the body should be forthcoming when the case was tried; this he did by taking security from two of his friends. It was not necessary that the first finder should be bound over in this way if the victim was conscious when found, and if he received his church rights it was taken as a proof that he was conscious, and had lived long enough to name the culprit.

There were four coroners for the county, but Oxford had two coroners for itself; possibly at one time the north suburb as well had coroners, but the



evidence is doubtful. Coroners had no pay, and but little opportunity of extorting bribes, but they received a recompense by being excused from all "juries, assizes, and recognitions." In Oxford it would be the business of the burgesses to see that there were fit coroners; and by giving them exemption from borough offices or by excusing them from attendance at the Mayor's Court or the hustings it would be possible to secure candidates for the post. No evidence has been found that the town gave them any recompense in money.

After the coroner's rolls had been produced at the Assizes, there was no reason why they should be preserved; but it seems that some were taken away by the judges, and thus have reached the Record Office, while others were deposited in the town

archives, where Brian Twyne saw them about the year 1620, and a few undecipherable fragments remain to this day. In 1891 the Oxford Historical Society printed 29 inquests, which the late Professor Thorold Rogers had copied from Brian Twyne's notebooks and from a roll in the Bodleian, and the Selden Society has printed a few more, but there are many besides, partly in Twyne's volumes, and partly at the Record Office in London, and it is proposed to print here all the remaining inquests that are known. The originals, of course, are in Latin, but they lose little by translation; and few will deny that they give some glimpses of mediæval Oxford which can be acquired nowhere else.

H. E. SALTER



# CORONER'S INQUESTS.

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DAVID DE TREMPEDHWY; December 22, 1296  
(Coroner's Roll 128, Record Office).

Cases of the Crown for the time of Adam de Spalding, Coroner of the town of Oxford; in the 25th year of King Edward.

It came to pass on Saturday, the morrow of St. Thomas the Apostle, in the 25th year of King Edward, that a clerk named David de Trempedhwy died in his lodging, where he abode towards the east gate of Oxford. And the same day he was viewed by Adam de Spalding, Coroner of Oxford; and he had a wound with a long knife under the left breast, very deep. An inquest was held thereon the same day before the said coroner by means of the four neighbouring parishes, to wit, St. Peter's-in-the-East, St. Mary's, St. Mildred's, and All Saints. And all the sworn men in the said inquest say upon their oath that on Sunday next after the feast of St. Nicholas the said David, about the hour of curfew, took a harlot named Christiana, of Worcester, with him, even to a street called Scolestrete, and entered one of the schools, and there certain clerks, whose names are unknown, came upon him, who were lying in wait for the said David, and made an assault on him, and so in that assault he was wounded, whereof he died on the Saturday aforesaid, and so he lived for twelve days, and had all church rights, and never after could it be found out who were guilty of his death.

In the margin, in another hand, "Nought." School

Street was the street which ran north and south past the front of B.N.O.

JOHN METESCHARP; February 4, 1297 (printed Oxford City Documents, p. 150; Coroner's Roll, 128); murdered by "clerks."

WILLIAM DE NEUSCHOM; April 3, 1297 (printed Oxford City Documents, p. 151); killed in a brawl.

JOHN LAURENCE; April 22, 1297 (Coroner's Roll, 128).

It came to pass on Monday, before the feast of St. George-the-Martyr, in the 25th year of King Edward, that John Laurence died in his lodging, where he abode, in the parish of St. Peter-in-the-Bailey. And the same day he was viewed by Adam de Spalding, coroner, and he had no wound, but he was grievously beaten throughout his whole body. An inquest was held thereon the same day before the said coroner by means of the four nearer parishes, to wit, St. Peter's-in-the-Bailey, St. Michael's North, St. Martin's, and All Saints. And all the sworn men in that inquest say upon their oath that on Palm Sunday a clerk named David de Northampton, when it was late, was in the street over against his lodging, where he abode in the parish of St. Michael North, beneath the north wall of the town, and as he walked he was saying his prayers and orisons; and the said John Laurence came there, meeting

him, and to cause a strife pushed him with his shoulder once and again. And the said David asked him to leave him in peace, and so entered his lodging, and immediately the said John came to the door of the lodging, and smote upon it twice. And the said David came forth with a staff and smote him on the head, so that he fell to the earth, and beat him with the staff on his shoulders and back and reins and throughout his whole body, whereof he died on the Monday aforesaid. And so he lived through 15 days, and had all church rights. However, meanwhile the said David was summoned before Master John Bloyow, at that time commissary of the Chancellor of the University of Oxford, and the said John Laurence likewise; and by an inquest held thereon before the said commissary both parties were sentenced to prison. And while they were in prison concord was made between them by the counsel of the said commissary, and they were both delivered by him from prison, and immediately the said David went away from the town, so that he was never afterwards seen or found therein, nor could aught be inquired or found about his goods.

The commissary of the Chancellor is now called the Vice-Chancellor; this Vice-Chancellor is a century earlier than any hitherto known. We conclude from the last sentences that John Laurence was a clerk as well as David of Northampton. The houses on the south side of Ship Street, or New-Inn-Hall Street, facing the town wall, were often described as "beneath the wall."

**MATILDA DE CRICKELADE; May 25, 1297**  
Coroner's Roll, 128).

It came to pass on Friday, the morrow of Ascension, in the 25th year of King Edward, that Matilda de Crickelade died in the house where she abode, in the parish of St. Frideswide, about midnight. And on the Saturday next in the morning she was viewed by Adam de Spalding, coroner; and she had one wound on the left side of the head, two inches long, one inch wide, and one inch deep. An inquest was held thereon the same day before the said coroner by means of the four nearer parishes, to wit, St. Frideswide's, St. Michael's South, St. Aldate's, and St. Ebbe's. And all the sworn men in the said inquest say upon their oath that on Thursday, the feast of the Ascension, after the hour of curfew, there was a strife of words between William de Wydintone, doorkeeper of Master William Burnel, and a clerk named Robert de Acton-Burnel,

who lived of the alms of the said Master William; and thereupon the said Robert, with an ashen staff which he bore in his hand, smote the said doorkeeper once and again, and when he would have smitten him a third time the said Matilda, who was standing by, leapt forward between them, so that she received on her head the blow which the said Robert purposed to have given to the said doorkeeper; and thus she had the said wound whereof she died the hour and night aforesaid, but she had all church rights; and the said Robert fled immediately after the deed, so that he could not be secured nor found; and he had nought in goods.

Master William Burnel lived at Burnel's Inn, which stood where now is the N.W. quarter of Tom Quad. Probably we are meant to understand that the "strife of words" was about the alms of William Burnel; broken meat was called alms, and it may have been the duty of the door keeper to give his master's scraps to the poor scholar.

**JOHN DE GLASKOW; June 12, 1297 (Coroner's Roll 128).**

It came to pass on the morrow of St. Barnabas the apostle, in the 25th year of King Edward, that John de Glaskow died in the high street towards east gate immediately after the hour which is called "directly after noon" (*immediate post nonam*), and immediately he was viewed by Adam de Spalding, coroner of Oxford, and he had a deep wound even to the belly. An inquest was held thereon the same day before the said coroner by means of the four neighbouring parishes, to wit, St. Peter's-in-the-East, St. Mary's, All Saints', and St. Martin's. And all the sworn men say upon their oath that on that day about noon (*hora nona*) Robert, servant of Ralf de Shipton, and Paul, another servant of the said Ralf, came and led a red ox through east gate towards the butchery for slaughtering, and when they were come between the churches of St. Mary and All Saints the said ox, with great violence, threw them to the ground and so escaped from them, and the said John came and met it and would have withstood it; and the said ox, with all its might, ran at him and with one of its horns smote him under the ribs, and so carried him on its horn for the length of 40 feet and then threw him to the ground, and the said John died within the space of one furlong (*unius quarentene*) of the road; and the said ox ran with such violence that none could catch it or stop it, and so it escaped out of the town into

Bullington Hundred, but Nicholas de Overton and Walter de Hedindone are pledges of the said Ralf to answer for half a mark for the said ox.

In the margin, "Misadventure."

Bullington Hundred begins at Magdalen Bridge. The ox was considered to be worth 6s. 8d. "Died within the space of one furlong" probably means that before they had carried him a furlong he died.

**MARGERY GOLDE; June 22, 1297 (Coroner's Roll 128).**

It came to pass on Saturday before the feast of the Nativity of St. John-the-Baptist, in the 25th year of King Edward, that Margery, wife of Adam Golde, died in her house where she abode, in the parish of St. Peter-in-the-East, and immediately she was viewed by Adam de Spalding, coroner. An inquest was held thereon the same day before the said coroner by means of the four neighbouring parishes, to wit, St. Peter's-in-the-East, St. Mary's, St. Mildrid's, and All Saints; and all the sworn men in that inquest say upon their oath that on Friday last the said Adam Golde and Margery, his wife, had been at a tavern, and were drunk beyond measure, and at night when they went to bed the said Margery fixed a lighted candle on the wall by their bed, and both entered their bed and left the candle burning and immediately fell asleep; and when the candle had burnt as far as the wall, that which remained fell on the straw by their bed, and burnt it and the said Margery even to the belly, whereof she died on the next day, but she had all church rights. Asked whether the said Adam her husband could have saved her from the fire, so that she could have lived, they say upon their oath that he could not, because that the same Adam scarce escaped his own death, for that his hands and feet were burnt to the bones, so that scarce will he recover.

In the margin, "Misadventure."

The straw mentioned here, and elsewhere, was, of course, the common covering of the floor. In this and other inquests we read of candles "fixed" on the wall; perhaps we are to understand that there was a nail or spike projecting from the wall, on which they spiked the candle.

**JOHN ATTEHALLLE; Sept. 2, 1297 (Coroner's Roll 128).**

It came to pass on Monday after the feast of St. Giles, in the 25th year of King Edward, that John

Attehalle, of Walingeford, died in the house of Alice, his mother, in the parish of St. Michael South, and the same day he was viewed by Adam de Spalding, coroner, and he had two mortal wounds with a knife by the heart even to the belly. An inquest was held thereon the same day before the said coroner by the four neighbouring parishes of St. Michael South, St. Aldate, St. Frideswide, and St. Ebba. And all the sworn men in that inquest say upon their oath that last night, after curfew had been rung, there was a strife of words between the said John and Walter de Eure, smith, and the said Walter drew his knife and smote the said John twice in the belly and gave him two mortal wounds whereof he died, but he lived until day-dawn, and he had all church rights. And immediately the said Walter fled to the church of the Austin Friars without Smethegate, and there in that church he kept himself until the next Wednesday; and on the said Wednesday the same Walter, before Adam de Spalding, coroner, confessed that he had feloniously slain the said John; and he abjured the realm of England. And Dover was assigned to him as his port. And there are goods and chattels of the said Walter valued at seven shillings; for which sum Andrew de Pyrie, then bailiff of Oxford, will answer.

The Austin Friars were on the site of Wedham: Smith Gate was at the north end of Cat Street, and the shop called the Holywell printing press was one of the bastions of the gate. A man who was in danger of arrest might flee for sanctuary to a church, but the law allowed him to remain there only a certain number of days. Within that time he must make up his mind whether he would stand his trial or be an exile for life. If he chose the latter, he must start for the coast at once, and make for that port which he asked might be assigned to him.

**BARTHOLOMEW OF WINCHENDONE; Sept. 4, 1297 (Coroner's Roll 128).**

It came to pass on Wednesday after the feast of St. Giles, in the 25th year of King Edward, that Bartholomew of Wynchdone came into the town of Oxford with two oxen which he would have sold; and immediately a certain John Russel, of Thene-nestoke, came up, whose the oxen were, pursuing him and wishing to have him secured by the King's bailiffs of Oxford, for that the same Bartholomew had stolen the said oxen at the house of the said John at Thenenestoke in the past night; and the said

Bartholomew, perceiving that the said John was pursuing him that he should be secured, immediately fled to the church of St. Mary-the-Virgin. And on the next Thursday, before Adam de Spalding, coroner, he confessed that he was a thief of the said oxen and of divers other robberies, and abjured the realm of England; and Wynchelsey was given him as his port. And the same Bartholomew had goods and chattels priced at the value of 20d.; for which Andrew de Pyrie, at that time bailiff of Oxford, will answer.

In those days theft of this kind was punished by death; hence the case comes before the coroner.

**THOMAS ATTECHIRCHEYE**; Feb. 25, 1298  
(Coroner's Roll 123).

It came to pass on Tuesday after the feast of St. Matthias the Apostle, in the 26th year of King Edward, in the morning, that Thomas Attechircheye, of Iffley, died in the house of Richard Pykard, in the parish of St. Peter-in-the-East; and immediately he was viewed by Adam de Spalding, coroner; and he had two mortal wounds, almost through the midst of his body. An inquest was held thereon the same day before the said coroner by means of the four nearer parishes, to wit, St. Peter's-in-the-East, St. Mary's, St. Mildred's, and All Saints'. And all the sworn men in that inquest say upon their oath that the said Thomas came on Sunday last in the high street opposite the church of St. Mary, wishing to go towards Iffley; and there Roger de Brecham, clerk, came and smote him with a long knife almost to the heart, and Henry de Brecham, clerk, smote him with a sword through the midst of his body; of which wounds the said Thomas died on the said Tuesday, but he had all church rights. And the said Roger and Henry fled so that, because of the great multitude of other armed clerks that were there, they could not be secured, nor could ought be found about their goods.

For the occasion of this murder see the note after the next inquest. In a contemporary account of the outbreak this event is said to have happened on the Saturday, not the Sunday.

**FULCO NEYRMYT**; Saturday, March 1, 1298  
(Twyne iv., 77).

It came to pass on Friday after the feast of St. Matthias, the apostle, in the 26th year of the reign of King Edward, that Fulco Neyrmyt, clerk, died in his lodging where he abode, in the parish of St.

Mildred, Oxford; and on Saturday following in the morning he was viewed by John de Osney, king's coroner of the town of Oxford; and he had one wound in his left eye with a small arrow even to the brain, and so almost through his head. An inquest was held thereon before the said coroner, and Adam de Spalding, the other king's coroner, in the said town, by the oath of Henry Gobyon, Adam Reed, Michael the miller, John de Ferendone, John de Campden, and Richard Pikard, sworn men of the parish of St. Peter-in-the-East; William le Plomer, Thomas le Glasier, yrmonger, Walter le Keu, Richard le Grasier, Henry de Bristoll, and Richard de Hethrop, sworn men of the parish of St. Mary-the-Virgin; Robert de Okle, Philip le Ganter, Laurence le Gaunter, Richard le Gros de Achecote, William de Bristoll, archer, Roger le Lacer, and Thomas Faber, sworn men of the parish of All Saints; Oliver le Taylur, John Dorre, John Lenveyse, John de Erdington, and Thomas le Taylur, sworn men of the parishes of St. Edward and St. Mildred. And all the said jurors say upon their oath, that on Monday the feast of St. Matthias, in the 26th year of King Edward, the said Fulco Neyrmit with many other clerks and their manicles came in the High Street between the church of All Saints and the church of St. Mary, immediately after the ninth hour, with bows and arrows, swords and bucklers, slings and stones, and made an assault on all laymen that they could reach, and many they wounded grievously, and they broke into the houses and shops of certain laymen, and took and bear away the goods and chattels found therein; whereby a great hue was raised, so that many laymen came up to disturb the said malefactors. And after the said Fulco had shot away all his arrows, he then came to the house of Edward de Erkelawe and Basilia his wife, hard by the church of St. Mary-the-Virgin; and there, protected by his targe, he assaulted the said house with all his might with others of his company, who all wished to enter the said house and plunder the goods therein. And the said Edward de Erkelawe, standing in an upper chamber, defended his house with his bow, and when the said Fulco peered over the edge of his targe, the said Edward shot him in the left eye; whereby he died on Friday aforesaid, but he had his church rights.

This inquest has been printed by the Selden Society from the roll of Adam de Spalding (Coroner's Roll, 123). It differs in a few points from this account, which is by John de Osney, but the only in-

portant difference is that Adam de Spalding gives the name of the archer as Edward de Hales. The conclusion of the story is found in "Oxford City Documents," p. 175 (see Twyne iv., 143). Edward de Hales was indicted before Adam de Spalding and committed to prison; but, escaping on Christmas Day, 1298, he took sanctuary in the adjoining church of St. Michael at the North Gate. After remaining there twelve days he surrendered, and abjured the realm, being given a safe conduct as far as Chester. His goods were valued at 12s., being two old feather beds and pillows worth 2s., linen and woollen clothes worth 3s. 6d., timber worth 4s., pots and utensils worth 2s. 6d. They were delivered to the Hospital of St. John without the East Gate, no doubt because he was one of their tenants, and by charter they were entitled to the forfeitures of their tenants.

This was a case of Town v. Gown, or, as our record says, clergy v. laity, and was no common disturbance. Ultimately both sides appealed to the king, and among the grievances of the University was this, that the townsmen had slain Fulco Neyrmit, "priest and scholar." In ancient days there was among undergraduates more diversity in age, wealth, and position, than there is now; some undergraduates were archdeacons, many were priests, and some even were parish priests, who were allowed absence from their parishes; we, therefore, need not be surprised to find a priest among "scholars." It must be remembered that in that hot-tempered age the behaviour of Fulco was not so unbecoming for a "priest and scholar" as we should now deem it.

If Edward de Hales was a tenant of St. John's Hospital, his house must either have been the shop immediately west of St. Mary's, at the corner of High Street and School Street, or else on the south side of the High, facing the church, next but one on the west from the corner tenement of Grove Street and High Street, a tenement recently acquired by Oriel from Magdalen, and now (alas) part of vanished Oxford.

It must be remembered that Coroners' Inquests give the point of view of the Town; no clerks were ever on a coroner's jury. It is certain that a jury of the University would have given a different account of the events.

AGNES DE HENXEY; May 18, 1298 (Coroner's Roll, 128).

It came to pass on Sunday after the feast of the Ascension, in the 29th year of King Edward, in the

morning, that Agnes de Henxei, maidservant of Alice la Mercere, of Oxford, was found dead within the walls of the house of the said Alice; Simon le Gerlondere first found her dead, and immediately raised the hue; and immediately she was viewed by Adam de Spalding, coroner, and she was all burnt by fire. An inquest was held thereon the same day before the said coroner by means of the four nearer parishes, to wit, St. Martin's, St. Michael's North, St. Peter's-in-the-Bailey, and All Saints. And all the sworn men in that inquest say upon their oath that on Saturday last the said Agnes was drunk, and long after curfew wished to go to her bed, where she lay, in a chamber where the most part of the straw was by her bed, and she fixed a lighted candle on the wall by her bed, and went to bed, and left the candle burning, and immediately fell asleep; and when the candle had burnt even to the wall, that which remained fell on the straw, and set on fire the chamber and the adjoining house (*aulam*), and so the said Agnes was burnt to death by the fire, together with all the goods that were in the chamber. Pledges that the first finder will appear, etc., are Thomas Yve, John Davie.

WILLIAM DE HEYWORTH; June 17, 1298 (printed Oxford City Docs., p. 153); murdered by Reginald of Holywell.

ALICE TRIVALER; Aug. 9, 1298 (Coroner's Roll, 128).

It came to pass on Saturday, the vigil of St. Laurence, in the 26th year of King Edward, that Alice, who was the wife of John Trivaler, and Roger, son of the same John and Alice, of the age of 20 weeks, were found dead in the parish of St. Mary-the-Virgin. The said John Trivaler first found them dead and immediately raised the hue, and the same day they were viewed by Adam de Spalding, coroner, and they were burnt to death. An inquest was held thereon by means of the four nearer parishes, to wit, St. Mary's, St. Peter's-in-the-East, St. Mildrid's, and All Saints. And all the sworn men in that inquest say upon their oath that on Friday last the said John and Alice were in a shop where they abode in the parish of St. Mary late at night, ready to go to bed, and the said Alice fixed a lighted candle on the wall by the straw which lay in the said shop, so that the flame of the candle reached the straw before it was discovered (*lumen (sic) candele priusquam percipiti fuissent attingit ad stramen*), and immediately the fire spread throughout the shop, so that the said John and Alice scarce escaped without, forget-

ting that they were leaving the child behind them. And immediately when the said Alice remembered that her son was in the fire within, she leapt back into the shop to seek him, and immediately when she entered she was overcome by the greatness of the fire and choked, so that she could not come out, and so she and the said boy were burnt to death. Pledges of the first finder that he will appear, etc. Henry le Fleocher and Roger le Mortimer.

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JOHN BUREL; Friday, Sept. 19, 1298 (Coroner's Roll, 128).

It came to pass on Thursday after the Exaltation of Holy Cross, in the 26th year of King Edward, that John Burel died in the town gaol about the hour of curfew; and on the Friday following in the morning he was viewed by Adam de Spalding, coroner, and he had a mortal wound on the crown of his head, six inches long and in depth reaching to the brain, and on the forehead another wound, but not mortal. An inquest was held thereon the same day before the said coroner by means of the four nearer parishes, to wit, St. Michael's North, St. Mildred's, St. Martin's, and All Saints. And all the sworn men in that inquest say upon their oath that the said John Burel on the said Thursday was at a beer-tavern late at night, at the house of Thomas de Stauntons, with other clerks from Ireland; and one Nicholas de Uilers, a clerk from Ireland, and one John de Suthfolk, with certain other clerks, were sitting in the same house drinking in a fellowship apart and not with the others. At length there arose a strife of words between the said parties, and so all went forth from the house in contention; and immediately after they came into the street, John Burel drew his sword and instantly assaulted the said Nicholas, and he, as best he could, fled away, raising the hue; and likewise John de Suthfolk fled; and the said John Burel ever pursued them with all his might with his sword drawn, and would have killed them. And the said Nicholas, seeing that he could in no way escape the peril of death, drew his sword, and, repelling force by force in self defence, lest he should be slain, he smote the said John Burel on the forehead, but not mortally; and none the less the said John attacked the said Nicholas with his sword more violently, swiftly, and bitterly than he had done before; and when he would, and should, have slain the said Nicholas, there came John de Suthfolk, and with a hatchet called "a sparthe," which he had in his hand, he smote the said John Burel

on the crown of the head, so that from that wound he died, as is aforesaid; and at once by reason of the hue that had before been raised by the said Nicholas a multitude of people came up, and so all were secured and imprisoned, and there John Burel died, as aforesaid. And afterwards the said Nicholas, before H. de Brantestone and I. Neyrimyt, justices assigned for a gaol-delivery at Oxford, was delivered by a verdict of the district; and John de Suthfolk before the same justices was convicted of the murder by a verdict of the district, and because he was a clerk he was delivered to the Bishop of Lincoln.

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A sparthe is the same as a halberd. The punishment of John de Suffolk would be imprisonment in the bishop's prison at Banbury. There he might remain from two to five years or more, but ultimately, if he did not die of gaol-fever or cold, he would have to be released, when his place was wanted for other criminals. The higher taverns were wine-taverns; this was only a beer-tavern. All the parties were what would now be called undergraduates.

Up to this point we have had a complete record of inquests for 20 months; for the next 43 years we have a few isolated cases.

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MARGERY OF HEREFORD; April 27, 1299 (printed in Oxford City Documents, p. 154, from Twyne iv. 143); murdered by a clerk, whose name was not known.

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ROBERT DE LA MARCHE; Jan. 18, 1300 (printed in Oxford City Documents, p. 152, from Twyne iv. 33, but wrongly dated); murdered outside North Gate on Sunday night by a clerk from Ireland; the coroners were Thomas Lysewys and John de Oseney.

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ROGER, SON OF EMMA DE HEREFORD; April 23, 1300 (printed in Oxford City Documents, p. 155, from Twyne iv. 146); on April 21, the Archdeacon of Bucks, a young Italian named Boniface de Salucia, made a great feast; there is reason for thinking that it was his inception-feast, the feast given on taking a degree; Emma was injured in the press and the child was born dead next day, yet seems to have received a name.

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WILLIAM DE BANGOR; August 2, 1300 (printed in Oxford City Documents, p. 156, from Twyne iv.

143); he was a clerk from Ireland, and was drowned near Medley, bathing.

GERVASE, SON OF JOHN MADDAK; Aug. 18, 1300 (printed in Oxford City Documents, p. 158, from Twyne iv. 146); he was a clerk from Wales, and was murdered in Takely's Inn, in St. Mary's parish, now approximately 108, High Street. The coroners are John de Oseney and William de Fencote, if Twyne copied the original correctly.

ROGER DE METHAM. Saturday, Dec. 3rd, 1300 (Twyne xxiii. 188).

It came to pass on Saturday after the feast of St. Andrew, in the twenty-ninth year of the reign of King Edward, that Roger de Metham, clerk, of the age of sixteen years, died in his lodging where he dwelt in the parish of St. Mildrid; and at the request of some of his friends he was viewed the same day by John de Oseney coroner; and he had no wound or other apparent injury. However, on the same day an inquest was held before the said coroner by the oath of Simon le Barber, Thomas le Taillor, Robert le Saucer, Alan (?) Hexelon, Robert le Couper and Richard de Burnoestre, sworn men of the parish of St. Mildrid, Henry le Ros, Philip le Gaunter, William de Bristol, Robert de Ocle and Thomas le Lormer, sworn men of the parish of All Saints; John de Bedeford, Walter de Grafton, Richard de Cosinton, Richard le Grasler, John de Colesbourn and Adam de Sutton, sworn men of the parish of St. Michael North; Peter le Seler, Simon de Bradeweys, John de Odiham, Henry de Bristol, John de Bulburne and Henry de Pokelynton, sworn men of the parish of St. Mary-the-Virgin. And all the said jurors say upon their oath that, on Saturday last the morrow of St. Catherine virgin, the said Roger at the hour of vespers was at the Old Hall called Baylohall to have games (*sausa ludendi*) with some scholars of his own district who abode there; and he ascended into an upper room, and as he was on a certain gallery (*oriole*) outside the door of the said upper room, he leant upon a piece of wood that was let in (*injunctum*), secured transversely to two posts; the wood being weak broke, and the said Roger fell to the ground; and those who were present took him and brought him to his lodging; and because of the anguish of the fall he contracted a fever, and so from that fever he sickened with sore illness, of which illness he died on the said day; but he lived for six whole days and had all his church rights.

And the said jurors say on their oath that no one is to be blamed for his death.

Old Balliol Hall was so called because the scholars of Balliol were lodged there before they had buildings of their own. It was on the north side of Horsemonger Street (i.e., Broad Street) next but two to the corner; it was the property of the University, and was known as Sparrow Hall. In 1427 it was acquired by Balliol College. It is possible that at this time it was rented by Balliol College. If so, Roger de Metham would be a north-country man; for Balliol was recruited from the north, and we are told that he was from the same district (*patria*) as those who lodged at Old Balliol Hall. It is interesting to learn the age of an undergraduate. The unsoundness of the building and the desire for the company of men of your own district are both characteristic of Medieval Oxford.

JOHN DE RYPON; Dec. 18, 1300 (printed in Oxford City Documents, p. 157, from Oxon Roll, No. 30, in the Bodleian); murdered by Richard de Malteby, who escaped.

HENRY DE BUCKINGHAM, clerk; Dec. 22, 1300 (printed in Oxford City Documents, p. 158, from Oxon Roll, No. 30); died of a wound received from highwaymen at a place called White Cross, near Oxford.

ROBERT DE HONITON, clerk; Jan. 5, 1301 (printed in Oxford City Documents, p. 158, from the same roll, also Twyne iv. 115); on New Year's Eve he went up the tower of St. Michael's to help ring the bells, and fell through a trap-door.

SIMON LE FEURE AND ALAN, SON OF WILLIAM; June 28, 1301 (printed in Oxford City Documents, p. 158, from the same roll); they were murdered by unknown highwaymen at Wycroft, on the way to Wolvercote.

HUGH RUSSEL, clerk from Wales; Dec. 7, 1301 (printed in Oxford City Documents, p. 160, from the same roll, also Twyne iv. 115); murdered by Master Elyas de Montgomery.

JOHN DE NEUSHOM, clerk and teacher of boys; Dec. 7, 1301 (printed in Oxford City Documents, p. 161, from the same roll, also Twyne iv. 115); one afternoon he climbed into a willow tree on the banks of the Charwell, near Magdalen



Bridge, collecting twigs for a birch to chastise the boys, and fell into the mill-pool of Temple Mill and was drowned. His wife came to look for him and found his body.

JOHN DE HAMPSLAPE, clerk; Dec. 9, 1301 (printed in Oxford City Documents, p. 162, from the same roll, also Twyne iv. 115); he was killed in Cat Street opposite Magna Scola, attempting to stop the quarrel of two clerks. Magna Scola was another name for Hereboren Hall, on the east side of Cat Street, a little south of All Souls' Library.

WILLIAM DE BUFFORD; Monday, Feb. 26, 1302 (Twyne iv. 197).

It came to pass on Sunday the morrow of St. Matthias the apostle, in the thirtieth year of King Edward, that William de Bufford, baker, died in his house where he dwelt in Little Bailey, Oxford, in the parish of St. Ebbe, virgin, after the hour of vespers, and on Monday next in the morning he was viewed by Thomas Lisewys, king's coroner of the town of Oxford, and he had one wound on his left shoulder with a sword; it was six inches long and two inches deep, but was not mortal; also he had another wound on his left side, which was mortal, one inch long, half-an-inch broad, and two inches deep; and the same day an inquest was held before the said coroner by the oath of William de Pussey, William de [blank], Walter le Curreour, Nicholas de Cornubia, tailor, Robert le Hosier, Henry de Oclea, Richard Sutor, and John de Chamle, sworn men of the parish of St. Ebbe; Henry de Astoun, Adam de Tilherst, Hugh le Couper, William Browne, John Sutor, and Henry de Newbottle, sworn men of the parish of St. Peter in the Bailly; William de Burnoestre, Robert de Cestre, Peter de Staunton, William de Chippenham, and John Beneyt, sworn men of the parish of St. Martin; Geoffrey de Langford, Thomas de Aycton, Henry Beneyt, Geoffrey Faber, Richard de Blounham, and John Bishop, fishmonger, of the parish of St. Aldate. And all the said jurors say upon their oath, that on Wednesday after the feast of the Purification of St. Mary the Virgin the said William stood in the door of his house immediately after curfew, and John de Bellgrave and John de Cliffe, clerks, came there and made an assault on the said William; and John de Cliffe with a sword gave him the aforesaid wound on the shoulder, and John de Bellgrave with a dagger (*misericorde*) gave him the said wound on the left side,

whereof he died; but he lived for 17 days after he was wounded, and had all his church rights. They say also that William de Cliffe and Richard Barret, clerks, were in their company, but did him no evil. And after the said deed at once they all fled, except John de Bellgrave, who was secured (*attachatus*) and detained in the prison of the town. And afterwards the Chancellor of the University demanded that he should be delivered to him to his own prison as being his scholar, because Master Roger, surgeon, testified by oath, which he made to the said University, that there was no despair of the life of the said William from the said wounds; wherefore John de Bellgrave was delivered to the said Chancellor on Friday before the feast of St. Matthias, and the said Chancellor released him from the said prison on the Saturday, on security (*cautio*) which John de Bellgrave delivered to him. And immediately after he was released he withdrew from the town, and never afterwards was seen therein.

Little Bailey is now St. Ebbe's Street. The University had no prison of its own, but we gather from this inquest that the Chancellor had a separate portion of Bocardo, and that his prisoners were not kept with the prisoners of the town. As the Chancellor might not try cases where the offence was to be punished by death, the certificate of Master Ralf was necessary to make it a case of mere brawling.

JOHN GODFREY, of Binsey; Aug. 12, 1302 (printed in Oxford City Documents, p. 163, from Oxon Roll No. 30). He fell out of a boat crossing from Botley Mead to Wyke.

WILLIAM DE ROULE; Friday, Feb. 22, 1303. (Twyne xxiii. 625).

It came to pass on Thursday, the vigil of St. Peter in Cathedra, in the 31st year of King Edward, about midnight, that a clerk named William de Roule from the bishopric of Durham died in his lodging where he abode in the parish of St. Mildred, and on the Friday next in the morning he was viewed by Thomas Lysewys, coroner, etc. The jurors say upon their oath that one Louis, of North Wales, clerk, and one David ab Oweyn, clerk, of Wales, and others whose names are unknown, were in a street called School Street about the hour of curfew; and two of the companions of the said William de Roule, who were outside Smithgate,

came there, and when they would pass, Louis and the others assaulted them, and at once they raised the hue; which when the said William heard as he was in his lodging, he came forth with a staff to help his companions; and the said malefactors at once beat him, whereof he died; but he had all church rights.

Twyne has only given part of this inquest. Smithgate was at the north end of Cat Street, while School Street lay about 40 yards to the west.

**ADAM DE SARUM; Monday, March 26, 1303 (Twyne iv. 35).**

Memorandum that on Monday, the feast of the Annunciation, in the 31st year of the reign of King Edward, son of King Henry, Thomas de Sarum found Adam de Sarum, his brother, slain; and the same day there was a view of him before Thomas de Leseuys; the said finder found pledges, namely, Richard de Enderby and John de Leche. He had a wound in his face with a knife reaching to the throat on the left side and another wound in his shoulder on the left side. And the same day an inquest was held before the said coroner by the oath of Simon de Fencote and other jurors. And all the jurors say on their oath that on Sunday the vigil of the Annunciation, in the 31st year of King Edward, after the hour of vespers, as the said Adam was in the High Street towards East Gate, and was playing at ball with the others, there came Thomas de Keting of Ireland, clerk, and Walter le Whit, clerk, of Ireland, and Willock, attendant (*garote*) of David de Bren of Ireland; and the said William took the said Adam and held him so that he could not move; and thereupon the said Walter struck him on the head with his fist, so that he fell to the ground; and as he rose, the said Thomas de Keting struck him with a long knife in the face by the mouth and so even to the throat, and at once struck him again with the same knife on the left shoulder; whereof he died the next night about midnight; but he had his church rights. And they say that the said Thomas was lodged at Chymneyhall in St. John's Street, but had no chattels as they believe. Also they say that the said Walter and Willock were lodged at Schildhall in Kibald Street; but they say that Willock has nothing, but Walter had at his said lodging clothes and books, but they knew not of what value. They say also that Philip de Kendy was at the said death, and

dwells at Schaldhall, and had there books and clothes; but they know not of what value.

Twyne has omitted the names of the jury and perhaps somewhat more; for the coroner's roll generally states what was become of the murderers; nor is it clear why the first finder should find pledges, if Adam lived to receive his church rights. It is probable that Adam de Sarum was a clerk, or as we should say undergraduate, who was murdered by Irish undergraduates. We have here a picture of one type of the mediæval undergraduate, a ruffian fierce and penniless. Notice, that on Sundays after vespers (which must have been said a good while before sunset) the clerks played ball in the High towards its lower end. Dr. Rashdall, in his History of Universities, has remarked how few were the games of the undergraduates in the Middle Ages, but no doubt they played at football, which was well known then; and we read of some game which they played in summer in the fields outside Oxford. Thus on Sunday, May 23, 1307, certain clerks returned to Oxford in the evening through the East Gate "from their games in the open fields" (Oxford City Documents, p. 167); on Tuesday, Aug. 25, 1306, eight clerks made a disturbance near St. Aldate's as they were returning in the evening from a game in Coumede, the meadow south of Folly Bridge (Oxford City Documents, p. 1773). Cricket of a kind is mentioned in the Hustings Court of Monday, March 17, 1292 (Twyne xxiii. 661): "Henry le Soper and Rose his wife make complaint of Godfrey Faber and John Faber, that when the said Henry and Rose were in their shop for the purpose of selling their goods, viz., girdles, gloves, silk, and other mercery, on Wednesday, the feast of St. Gregory, after dinner, in All Saints' pariah, there came William and John playing in the street with a club and a great ball, and with the club and ball they knocked into the mud the goods of Henry and Rose that were in their shop, and trod upon them; and not content therewith they took the said Henry and smote him and beat him and evil entreated him, and Rose likewise they beat and evil entreated, and threw her on the ground, to the damage of Henry and Rose to the value of twenty shillings." As there is mention of only one club this game cannot have been hockey. The offenders in this case were townsmen, but no doubt undergraduates had the same game. We also hear of skittles, and about the time of Henry VIII. there was a tennis-court at the back of the London and County Bank.

In our record Willock is another form of William;

if hillock means little hill, Willok would mean little Will. Kibald Street ran from King Street to Grove Street, and lay between Merton Street and the High. St. John's Street is now Merton Street. As the assailants were all from Ireland, it is probable that the murder was due to one of those feuds in the University which were common in the Middle Ages, the undergraduates of one district or country or nation banding themselves against those of another district or country.

JOHN DE OSGODEBY; June 14, 1303 (printed Oxford City Documents, p. 164, from Oxon Roll No. 30); he was murdered by clerks. See also Twyne xxiii. 168.

MORICIUS DE CORK; June 8, 1304 (Twyne iv. 102).

Memorandum that Morice de Cork of Ireland, clerk, escaped from the King's prison of the town of Oxford on Monday (June 1) next after the feast of St. Augustine, first apostle of the English, and fled to the church of St. Michael at the North Gate, in the thirty-second year of King Edward; and he acknowledged before John Wyth, King's coroner of the town of Oxford, that he had broken prison feloniously, and he abjured the realm of England before the said coroner on Monday the feast of St. William, archbishop; and Dover was assigned to him for a port, etc. And he had money in the hands of Alice de Erdinton, viz., 3s. 8d., which remains in the hands of Hugh Cary and William de Burnoestre, bailiffs of Oxford, until the King's justices, etc.

As Morice took refuge in St. Michael's, we may assume that the prison was Bocardo, not the prison in the Castle. He was evidently accused of felony, but it need not have been murder; for death was then the penalty for many crimes short of murder. Having abjured the realm, his goods were forfeited, and if he returned to England he was treated as an outlaw. In the present case the forfeited goods were to remain in the hands of the bailiffs of Oxford, who, rather than the Mayor, were the representatives of the King's interests; and when the itinerant judges came to Oxford, the bailiffs would account to them.

ROBERT ATTEWYNDYATE; Tuesday, March 2, 1306 (Twyne iv. 27).

It came to pass on Monday after the feast of St. Mathias the apostle, in the 33rd year of the reign of King Edward, that Robert Attewyndyate, of Tre-

feld, died in the Hospital of St. John without the East Gate of Oxford about the third hour; and the same day he was viewed by Thomas Lisewys and John Wyth, king's coroners of the town of Oxford; and he had no wound nor any injury, except only that the flesh and the bones of his first finger on his right hand were utterly broken in two places on either side of the middle joint, and his right arm was swollen up to the body. And on Tuesday next following an inquest was held before John de Weston, who took the place of the said coroners, because on the Monday aforesaid they went by writ of the king to Westminster to the king's parliament. And Symon de Fencote, Henry de Yftele, Walter Culverd, Adam Reid, William le Barber, and Walter de Hayle, sworn men of the parish of St. Peter-in-the-East; Everard le Pester, Thomas de Orlyens, William de Wodeford, Robert de Caunterbury, John le Plomer, Thomas de Wycumbe, Henry le Gaunter, and Ralf de Kerseye, sworn men of the parish of St. Michael South; Richard de Morton, Geoffrey Scot, Geoffrey de Henxey, Thomas de Morem', Geoffrey de Langford, and Nicholas Brutes, sworn men of the parish of St. Aldate; Walter de Burnceastre, Thomas le Warde, Richard de Bloxham, John de Norton, and John Beneyt, sen., sworn men of the parish of St. Martin, say upon their oath that on Saturday before the feast of St. Peter in Cathedra the said Robert Attewyndyate had cleaned a stable without the south gate of Oxford, and had carried the dung into the street that he might take it away with the cart of Thomas de Henxey his master; and William, of Compton-in-Hennemerah, a servant (*serviens*) of clerks, came and carried away of the said dung into the close of the clerks, whose servant he was; and when the said Robert saw it, he said that he should carry away no more; and the said William would not cease; wherefore the said Robert would have disturbed him, and the said William smote him with a flail (*tribula*) which he had in his hand on his finger, so that he broke it in two places, and immediately the whole arm began to swell even to the body by reason of the anguish (*angustia*) of that blow, and so forthwith he began to sicken; wherefore he was brought to the hospital aforesaid, and there he lay until the said Monday, on which day he died; but he lived through nine days, and had all his church rights; and the said William fled immediately after the deed, so that afterwards he was never seen in Oxford, nor had he any goods or chattels.

St. John's Hospital was on the site of Magdalen

College. Mediæval Hospitals were for the most part places where the aged and infirm could end their days, but this inquest shows that they also received those who had been hurt. The coroners were in this year summoned, not to be members of Parliament, but to produce their rolls before Parliament.

**PHILIP PORT; Monday, March 8, 1305 (Twyne iv. 27).**

It came to pass on Monday after the feast of St. Gregory, pope, in the thirty-third year of King Edward, that Philip Port of Westwall was found dead in the parish of St. Peter-in-the-East about the ninth hour beneath the north wall of the town; and Richard de Cantebrigg first found him dead and at once raised the hue; and the same day he was viewed by Ralf de Hampton and John Fraunceys who had been chosen in the presence of the mayor and bailiffs to view him, because the coroners of the town by the King's writ were at that time gone to the King's Parliament. And the said Philip was wounded in the front of his head from one ear to another, so that all his brain was scattered outside; and he had another wound across his face to within the teeth, four inches long and one inch wide, and his right hand was cut off and lay beside him, and as it seemed to all who were there he had been wounded on the head with a hatchet, called in English *sparth* (=halberd). And the same day an inquisition was held before the same Ralf and John by the oath of Robert de Wyleby, Walter Culverd, Henry de Roi, John de Aldeburgh, William Attenoke, William le Barber, Simon de Fencote, Hugh de Barton, Adam de Towe, Henry de Yftete, sworn men of the parish of St. Peter-in-the-East; William de Milton, John de Stafford, William de Stourton, Richard de Hethrop, Robert le Grasier, and John de Campden, sworn men of the parish of St. Mary-the-Virgin; Geoffrey de Manneby, Robert de Ocle, Eudo le Gaunter, Thomas le Loksmith, Ralf de Stokenchiroh, Henry de Lichfeld, Thomas Aungel, and Thomas le Chamre, sworn men of the parish of All Saints; Simon le Barber, Nicholas de Cornubia, John de la March tailor, Reginald le Tayllur, Geoffrey and Thomas de Roulesham. And all the said jurors say upon their oath that John de Berdon, of the county of Leicester, manciple of la Vignehall, in Kibald Street, on Sunday last, late in the dusk of the evening, came to the lodging where the said Philip abode, in the parish of St. Peter-in-the-East, and as he was in his chamber called him and asked

him to come with him to a bear tavern, promising that he would give him drink; and he came out and went with him; and John after drinking withdrew; and so Philip began to go towards his lodging after curfew, and when he came to the corner under the wall towards East Gate, five clerks whose names they knew not came and made an assault on him; and he would have fled from them; and they followed him and caught him and wounded him as aforesaid, and slew him, and at once they fled. And they say that they know not the names of any of them, nor where they dwelt; but they say certainly that John de Berdon was the principal cause of his death, and that it was through him that the five clerks committed the said felony. Pledges of Richard, the finder, that he will appear before the judges when they come into those parts for the next assizes, are Adam de Essex and Hugh de Burton.

It will be noticed that although the murder was committed on Sunday night and not without being witnessed, yet the body was not "found" until three o'clock on Monday afternoon. Are we to conclude that all who passed by made a point of looking the other way, lest they should have to appear at the next assizes as "first finder"? The murder was committed in what is now New College garden. There was at that time a road on the inside of the north and east walls, and as Philip was returning to his lodging, at the north-east corner of the city "under the wall leading towards the East Gate," he was attacked, and the body was found a few yards farther on "under the north wall." "Under the wall" in old days generally meant "on the inside of the walls."

**ROBERT LE WYTH; Wednesday, June 9, 1305 (Twyne iv. 85).**

It came to pass on Tuesday before the feast of St. Barnabas, in the thirty-third year of King Edward, that Robert le Wyther was found dead in the water of the Thames at the Hithe, in the parish of St. Thomas-the-Martyr; and Agnes de Lichfeld first found him dead, and immediately raised the hue. And the same day he was viewed by John Wyth, king's coroner of the town of Oxford, but he had no wound on him or other injury. And on Wednesday following an inquest was held thereon before the said coroner by the oath of Henry de Lambourn, William de Barton, Richard de Tiwe, John Aleyn, Henry de Beumont, Henry Sutor, William Tropinal, Roger de Hlaughton, John de Botele

fisher, Richard Aleyn, Robert Pope, and Robert de Briddesthorpe, sworn men of the parish of St. Thomas-the-Martyr; Walter Lund', Walter de Eynesham, Walter le Marchal, Thomas le Tayllur, John de Wileby, Henry de Neubolte, and Thomas de Bloxham, sworn men of the parish of St. Peter-in-the-Bailly; Adam de Sutton, Peter le Curieur, John de Bedesford lorimer, John de Cottisford lorimer, John le Malyer, and Thomas le Tayllur, sworn men of the parish of St. Michael North; John de Shereburne, Roger Leveson, John de Caversfeld, Adam le Lindraper, and Nicholas de Welles, sworn men of the parish of St. Martin. And all the said jurors say upon their oath that on Thursday next after the feast of St. Augustine apostle, in the year aforesaid, the said Robert le Wyther and a certain Hugh, whose name they do not know, who lived with the monks of the order of St. Benedict by Oxford, were after dinner in a boat with turves for the use of the said monks; and because the boat was too much laden with the turves, it began to sink in deep water; and the said Hugh scarce escaped, and the said Robert was drowned by misfortune. And they say of a surety that no one else is to be blamed for his death. Pledges of the said findress, that she will appear before the judges, are John de la Hithe and William le Tayler. And the boat was valued at 4s. 6d., by the oath of twelve jurors; for which William de Burencester and Richard de Waleden, bailiffs of the town of Oxford, will answer.

The hithe, or landing place, was above Hithe Bridge, now called High Bridge. The Benedictine monks were at Gloucester College, now Worcester College, just opposite the hithe. The parish of St. Thomas extended about 100 yards north of Hithe Bridge, on both banks of the river. It may be noticed that although the death took place in North Gate Hundred, the inquest was held by the town coroner. The boat, or its value, was forfeited to the king, being known as a deodand.

**EDMUND DE LONDON; Monday, June 14, 1305**  
(Twyne iv. 85).

It came to pass on Saturday, the morrow of St. Barnabas the apostle, in the thirty-third year of King Edward, that Edmund de London, clerk, was found dead in the water of the Thames which flows between the close of the friars of the order of Preachers and the meadow called Estham by Oxford. And Hugh de Bourton first found him dead and raised the hue. And the same day he was viewed by John Wyth, king's coroner of the town

of Oxford, and on Monday following an inquest was held thereon by the oath of John de la Lavendrye, William de Thomele, Walter de Hereford, John de Thomele, Nicholas de Emyntone, William de Pusey, Adam de Eynesham, and Edmund de Rollendright, sworn men of the parish of St. Ebbe; Henry de Neubolte, William Brom, John Culbell, William de St. Aldate, William de Chippenham, and Walter le Marchal, sworn men of the parish of St. Peter-in-the-Bailly; Adam de Tilhurst, Robert de Quenyn-ton, Richard de Bloxham, and Walter de Burencestre, sworn men of the parish of St. Martin; Geoffrey le Marchal, John Bishop fishmonger, Thomas de Morton, Thomas de Boys, William le Bailer, Richard de Guaring, William de Crekelade, and Simon Seliford, sworn men of the parish of St. Aldate. And all the said jurors say upon their oath that on Friday last after dinner the said Edmund bathed in that water by himself, and thus he was drowned there by misfortune; and no one else is to be blamed for his death. Pledges, that the said finder will appear before the judges of the king, are John de Denton and Richard le Hayle.

The Preaching Friars, or Black Friars, were settled in the south suburb on the west side of Grandpont between Trill Mill stream on the north and the Thames on the south.

**RICHARD DE TODERIGE; July 25, 1305 (Twyne iv. 39).**

It came to pass on Sunday next after the feast of St. Margaret Virgin, in the 33rd year of the reign of King Edward, that Richard de Toderige clerk, who served in the church of St. Martin, died in the said church about the first hour; and immediately he was viewed by John Wyth, king's coroner of Oxford; and he had one wound on the top of his head with a sword; it was three inches long, and in depth even to the bones of the head. And the same day an inquest was held thereon before the said coroner by the oath of Walter de Burncestre, Adam de Tilhurst, William de Eynesham, John de Shireburn, Robert de Quenyn-ton, and Adam le Lindraper, sworn men of the parish of St. Martin; Robert le Marchal, Richard de St. Frideswyda, Thomas de Morton, Geoffrey de Henxey, Geoffrey de Langford, and John de Wycumbe, sworn men of the parish of St. Aldate; Thomas de Wycumbe, Robert de Trillemull, Gilbert de (?) Nampton, John de Tiwe, Nicholas le Schephurde, William de Tiwe, and Everard le Pestur, sworn men of the parish of St. Michael South; Ralf de Cokkeswell,

Gilbert de Ros, Andrew le Brimster, and John le Beste, sworn men of the parish of St. Edward. And all the said jurors say upon their oath that on Monday last, at the hour of curfew, the said Richard went to conduct a certain Cristina daughter of Robert le Parmenter from the house of the parson of the church of St. Martin to the house of Cristina, widow of Roger de Trille Mull, where Cristina daughter of Robert dwells, without the South Gate of Oxford; and when he came within the said gate on his return and wished to go to the church of St. Martin, where he lay every night, there came Philip Lewelyn, clerk, of March, abiding at Trillmill Hall, and smote the said Richard with a sword, and gave him the wound aforesaid, whereof he died on the said day, but he had all his church rights. They say also that Richard de Shireburne, clerk, abiding at Bolehalle, was there consenting to the deed, and had a sword drawn; but he did not smite the said Richard. They say also that Baldwin de Stonore, clerk, was there with a drawn sword and with his buckler, and was consenting to the deed; and immediately thereafter they all fled. The said Baldwin, who was secured, is detained in the gaol of the town of Oxford; of the goods of Philip and Richard nothing could be ascertained.

Richard de Hoderige was apparently parish clerk of St. Martin's. Trillmill Hall was outside Southgate. Bole Hall in Pennyfarthing (i.e., Pembroke) Street, on the north side not far from Fish Street (= St. Aldate's Street), was and still is the property of Merton College, but of recent years it has been called Leaden Hall.

ROBERT DE RATFORD; Nov. 29, 1306 (Twyne iv. 12).

Inquest before the coroner of the King's household, in the presence of John Wyth and Thomas de Lisewys, coroners of the town of Oxford, on Monday, the vigil of St. Andrew the Apostle, in the 34th year of the reign of King Edward, concerning the death of Robert de Ratford, clerk, of the county of Northampton, who was slain, made by the oath of William de Whatele and others; who say that it chanced on the previous Sunday about midnight that Robert de Ratford, together with William de Nottingham and Gilbert de Dounham, clerks, proceeded, as they were often wont, through the streets of the town of Oxford, with arms contrary to the peace, for the purpose of evil doing; and they met one John Saltwayn, a clerk from the North, and others unknown who were in his company. When

there arose a quarrel between them, John Saltwayn smote the said Robert with a long knife which he had in his hand, and gave him a wound in his right side even to the heart, whereof he died; and William le Schoveler first found him dead, and immediately raised the hue, which was followed up according to the law and custom of the realm of England; and the finder found pledges that he would appear before the judges, when they visit these parts to hold assises, viz., Henry de Hampton and Thomas de Abyndon.

When the King's court was within "the verge," i.e., within 12 miles, all local courts ceased, and cases were tried before special officers attached to the King's household. This also applied to coroners. On this day the King was at Oseney; therefore the coroner of the household held this inquest. It is remarkable that William le Schoveler was "first finder" in the case of another murder at night, which took place in 1301 (Oxford City Documents, p. 182). In the same way Thomas Yve was first finder twice in 1300. As it might prove an inconvenience to be the first finder and bound to appear at the assises, it may have been the case that some one was selected who was certain to be in Oxford for some years, perhaps one of the under bailiffs.

INQUEST ABOUT AN AFFRAY; Jan. 28, 1306 (Twyne iv. 42).

An inquest was held on Friday after the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul, in the 34th year of the reign of King Edward, before Roger Memecan, constable of the peace for the Statute of Winchester, and Richard de Waleden, bailiff of the town of Oxford, by the oath of William de Wodestok, Norman le Parmenter, Robert Iuel, Thomas de Morton, John le Scherman, Geoffrey de Marchal, Thomas de Boys, Geoffrey de Langford, Nicholas Brutes, Richard de Stratford, Gilbert de Ros, Richard de Bampton, who were sworn to make an inquiry about an assault between clerks and scholars made the night before, after the hour of curfew, by the cemetery of St. Aldate; who say upon their oath that on the previous night after the hour of curfew John Hike-neye, William de Glorie, and Richard le Lardiner, servants of the abbot of Oseney, came from the abbey of Oseney towards the house of William Chauntrill, by the gate of St. Frideswide, because the said William de Glorie purposed to have married on the morning of the aforesaid Friday a certain Mariona, daughter of Henry le Solatier, who dwelt in that house; wherefore the said John Hike-

neye and Richard le Lardiner went with him, conducting him towards that house; and when they came by the said churchyard, there came Robert de Insula, clerk, and another clerk, whose name is not known, and John, manciple of la Scheldhall, and Simon, manciple of la Berhall, and met the said John Hikeneye, William de Glorie and Richard le Lardiner, and assaulted them with drawn swords, because they saw John de Hikeneye with his bow strung and with an arrow; in which attack the said John was wounded in the head and on both hands, and the said William was wounded on the head. And the said jurors when asked by whom the said John was wounded, and by whom William was wounded, say upon their oath that do not know at all, because no one was present except the said parties; and they know no more. In testimony whereof the said jurors place their seals to this inquisition.

This inquest is puzzling. In the Oxford City Documents, p. 177 (Oxford Historical Society), there is printed from Twyne iv. 146 an inquest about the same affray taken the same day and before the same officers, and with eleven of the jurors the same, but telling an entirely different story. No suggestion can be given why two inquests were necessary.

INQUEST ABOUT AN AFFRAY, April 18, 1306  
(Twyne iv. 18).

An inquest held on Monday after the feast of St. George the Martyr, in the thirty-fourth year of King Edward, before the bailiffs of the town of Oxford, by the oath of William de Stokes, Richard le Grasier, Richard de Cosyngton, John de Hanynton, Stephen le Mouner, John de Odyham, William Godesdiket, John de Mixbury, Adam de Wilton, Jocus de Gatele, Peter le Coureur, John le Petit furbur, Henry de Beaumont, William de Goseford, William de Wyghthulle, Richard le Waynepayn and Robert de Derby, who were sworn to make inquiry on oath what malefactors and disturbers of the peace on the previous Sunday after nightfall came to the house of William de la March with swords and other arms, and made an assault on Margery, his wife, and on others who were in the house, whereby the hue was raised. And all the said jurors say upon their oath that when Henry, servant (*garcio*) of the said William de la March, would have taken down the sign of beer, and would have carried it into the house of the said William, there came David of Wales and Elyas of Wales and Robert their companion, clerks abiding at Stokhalle, and would have

taken the sign away from the said Henry, if aid had not arrived; and the said David, Elyas and Robert at once proceeded to their lodging for their swords, bucklers, and other arms, and entered the said house with drawn swords, and made an assault on the said Margery, and she in terror and fright raised the hue; for which cause the neighbours came to the said hue; and the said Elyas immediately when he saw people coming to the rescue fled into the cellar, where they sell their beer, and John, son of Henry the gaoler, who came with others to the hue, followed him into the cellar and admonished him that he should surrender himself to the peace of the King and render up his sword; and immediately he began to defend himself with the said sword, and smote the said John on his arm, and broke the smaller bone of the arm, and John defended himself and smote him back again on the head and wounded him. And they say that the hue was raised to the damage of the said David, Elyas, and Robert. In testimony whereof the jurors have put their seals to this inquisition.

If beer was being sold in a house, a sign had to be placed outside that the tasters of beer might know it. Stokhall was facing the North Wall where the new buildings of Jesus College have lately been erected.

INQUEST ABOUT AN AFFRAY; May 28, 1306  
(Twyne iv. 163).

An inquest held before the bailiffs and the constable of Oxford on Saturday the vigil of Holy Trinity, in the thirty-fourth year of the reign of King Edward, about the malefactors and disturbers of the peace who, the preceding night, made an assault on the King's watchmen; by the oath of John de Weston, Robert de Quenynton, John le Webbe, and others. Who say that on the previous Friday after midnight Robert Russell layman, Richard Pollard, Richard son of Hillary of Paris, clerks, and a layman, by name Peter Gloveneye, came to the house of Henry de Oole; and the said Robert Russell would have entered therein with his companions to drink; and he said that they were the sworn watchmen, whereas they were not sworn; but the said Henry would not permit them to enter; wherefore they came to the house of William de Godestowe, and there they entered and ate; and because they made much disturbance, the sworn watchmen came up, and because they did not know three who were in the company of the said Robert, they asked who they were; and the said Robert re-

plied that he would champion them and warrant them against all the world; wherefore the said watchmen would have arrested them, and Robert would not allow it, but would have drawn his sword against them, had he not been stopped by the watchmen; and while they were around him to take away his sword, the other three drew their swords, and betook themselves to their own defence, so that two of them escaped and the third was arrested with the said Robert, and so the hue was raised by the watchmen; and those who heard the hue came to the peace of the King and pursued those who had escaped and secured them; so that all the four were brought before Walter, constable of the peace, who received them and delivered them to gaol. And the said jurors say upon their oath that it was by the procuring and abetting of the said Robert that the other three went against the peace of the King at such an hour of the night; wherefore they say that the said hue was raised to his damage principally, and all the evil was done by his procuring.

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We learn from this record how much "night life" there was in mediæval Oxford. A house was open, although it was past midnight. It may be noticed that the four revellers claimed to be the night-watch, and apparently their outward appearance and behaviour did not make the claim incredible; those who remember Dogberry and his company will understand how this might be. A reason may be suggested why watchmen were of a low class; for should it happen that there was a disturbance a watchman might accidentally slay a man, and in that case as justice was uncertain it were wisest that he should flee and leave his goods to be forfeited to the King; hence the fewer your goods, the more suitable you were to undertake the office of night-watchman.

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**RICHARD LE LINDRAPER**; Sunday, June 28, 1306  
(Twyne iv. 45).

It came to pass on Saturday, the morrow of the Nativity of St. John Baptist, in the 34th year of the reign of King Edward, that Richard le Lindraper, cook, died in the King's gaol of the town of Oxford after midnight; and on the following Sunday, in the morning, he was viewed by John Wyth, King's coroner of the town of Oxford; and he had no wound on him, save that his skull was utterly broken behind even to the brain. And the same day an inquest was held thereon before the said coroner by the oath of William de Colesbourne,

Ralf de Hampton, William de Stoke, Henry le Marchal, Stephen le Mouner, John le Hore barber, John de Bedeford seler, John de Honynton, Thomas de Staunton, Robert Russell, Henry le Feuer, and Richard le Grasier, sworn men of the parish of St. Michael North; Ralf de Stoke, John Fraunceys, John de London taverne, Walter de Burncestre, Robert de Quenynton, and Nigel de Godewyneston, sworn men of the parish of St. Martin; Geoffrey de Stoke, Henry de Edrop, Robert le Furbur, and John de Clifford, sworn men of the parish of All Saints; Walter Lond', Everard le Pestur, William de Chippenham, William Perell, and Robert Russell, sworn men of the parish of St. Peter in the Bailly. And all the said jurors say on their oath that, on Saturday aforesaid, Richard le Lindraper and many others of the town of Oxford had been imprisoned by the Chancellor of the University of Oxford in the said prison, because they had been convicted before the same Chancellor of a transgression [of the peace], previously committed by them; wherefore, when night fell, the said Richard and other his companions asked the keeper of the gaol if they could lie that night on a loft (*aer*) which there was in the said gaol, above the other prisons; which loft was made safe (*attachatus*) with boards in one part, but not in another part; and the said keeper allowed them to lie there for that night. And after they had fallen asleep, the said Richard, who was lying there among his companions, rose from his bed after midnight wishing to ease himself, and he conceived that it was safe for him to walk in that loft, even as he was wont at home; and when he came where the boards were wanting, there he fell downwards, as far as another loft, so that his skull was utterly broken behind even to the brain, and so immediately thereafter he died. And the jurors, when asked further if he received his death by the deed, aid, means or assent of any person or persons, say on their oath that he did not, nor did he die otherwise than is aforesaid.

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It may be mentioned that the members of a jury were always townsmen, the members of the University being exempt from all juries, because they were clerks, i.e. in orders, whether holy orders or minor orders. It may some day be possible to point out the houses of these jurors; thus Nigel de Godewyneston probably lived at 9 and 10, Queen's Street, of which he became owner in 1315. The word here used for loft is not given in dictionaries; it is a Latin rendering of a French word *aiz*, which we



now write as *eyrie*. The prison was of course Bocardo, at the North Gate; the breach of the peace, of which Richard was convicted, may have been on the previous Thursday when "on the vigil of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, the tailors of Oxford and other townsmen with them kept vigil in their shops all the night, singing and making their solace with harpe, viels, and other diverse instruments, as is the custom to do, both there and elsewhere, by reason of the observance of that feast. And after midnight, when they conceived that no one was walking in the streets, they went forth from their shops, and others that were with him, and began to dance in the high street over against the Drapery" (i.e., in Cornmarket between "The Crown" and Carfax). Whereupon Gilbert de Foxlee came up and wanted to take part in the dance, and in the end there was a fight (Oxford City Documents, p. 166). It is true that Richard le Lindraper is not mentioned in that record, but it is well known that the vigil of St. John's Day, with its dancing and singing, was generally marked by more than one disturbance, and, in fact, Thomas de Weston was assaulted the same night in Walton. As the preservation of the peace was entrusted to the Chancellor, conjointly with the Mayor, he had the right of imprisoning all who broke the peace, whether clerks or townsmen.

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THOMAS DE WESTON; Sunday, June 28, 1306  
(Twyne iv. 39).

It came to pass on Saturday the morrow of the Nativity of St. John Baptist, in the 34th year of the reign of King Edward, that Thomas de Weston, hayward (*messarius*) of the abbot of Oseney, died in the grange of the said abbot at Walton, near Oxford, at the ninth hour; and on the Sunday next following, in the morning, he was viewed by John Wyth, king's coroner of the town of Oxford; and he had two wounds on the top of his head, in length each of them four inches and in depth to the bone, but not mortal wounds; and he had another wound in his back close to the spine on the right side with a small arrow; it was one inch in breadth and reached to the heart and was mortal. And immediately thereafter an inquest was held thereon before the said coroner, by the oath of Hugh Rolves, William Jones, Nicholas Colbes, Hugh Nichol, John le Chapman, and William Person, sworn men of the hamlet of Binsey; Reginald le Fre, John le Carpenter, David Aylun, Walter Trice, Richard de Boteley, Hugh Stamp, Robert Brumman, Simon

Attewell, Edmund Attewell, John Attewyke, Andrew de Walton, and Nicholas Aylun, sworn men of the hamlet of Walton; Thomas Pynke, William le Chapman, William Aylun, Thomas Botte, William Pinke, Gregory de Walton, sworn men of the pariah of St. Giles; Nicholas Crabbe, William de Barton, Richard de Tiwe, William Tropinel, John Attamore, and Philip le Noble, sworn men of the pariah of St. Thomas the Martyr. And all the said jurors say upon their oath that on the Thursday preceding, late at night, the said Thomas de Weston went to watch the meadows of his lord towards Godstow, as he was wont to do by day and night, lest any mischief should be done in them, and so he tarried there until the hour of midnight, and then began to return towards his lodging where he abode in the said grange; and when he came at the entering in of Walton, wishing to go towards his lodging aforesaid, there came Louis de Marchia, John de Pekford, and Henry de Sutton, clerks, and others with them whose names are unknown, bearing swords, bows and arrows, and other arms, and met the said Thomas, and at once assaulted him, and John de Pekford smote him with a sword and gave him the said wounds on the head. And Thomas seeing that he was in peril of death by the greatest effort escaped from their hands and fled from them; and as he was fleeing Louis, who had a strung bow in his hand, shot him with a small arrow in the back even to the heart, whereof he died at the hour aforesaid, but he had all his church rights. They say also that the said Henry de Sutton was in their company and consenting to the deed; yet he did him no evil. And the bailiffs are commanded to secure the said Louis, John de Pekford and Henry de Sutton, if they may be found, and keep them safe until the King's justices shall visit these parts.

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Although we hear of coroners in the suburb outside North Gate in 1285 (Oxford City Documents, p. 217), yet inquests in that suburb seem to be held by the coroner of the town. It will be noticed that this murder was committed in Walton at the same hour that the fight took place which is described in the next inquest, the vigil of St. John the Baptist being a day well known for disturbances. The meadow of the abbot of Oseney must have been on the east side of Port Meadow, and perhaps is identical with "Twenty-acre," a holding of Oseney, in the pariah of St. Giles's.

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GILBERT DE FOXLEE; August 21, 1306 (printed in Oxford City Documents, p. 166, from Twyne iv.

28). He died of a wound received at the revels of the tailors on the eve of St. John Baptist's day; but survived nearly two months.

**JOHN DE WYCOMBE**; Wednesday, Dec. 7, 1306 (Twyne xiii. 215).

It came to pass on Wednesday, the morrow of St. Nicholas, in the thirty-fifth year of King Edward, that John de Wycumbe was found dead in the fishery below the Castle of Oxford over against the church of the Friars "*de Penitentia Dei*," about the hour of vespers, etc.

Twyne gives no more. A fishery was a place where the water was dammed up and made to pass through eel-pots, or some similar contrivance for catching fish. The Friars of the Sack, or Friars of the Penance, lay to the west of the Grey Friars, who in 1309 obtained their land and houses.

**ROBERT DE BRAMPWYTH**; Wednesday, March 8, 1307 (Twyne iv. 106).

It came to pass on Tuesday before the feast of St. Gregory, pope, in the 35th year of King Edward, that Robert de Brampwyth, clerk, died in his lodging where he abode, in the parish of Holy Cross, in the suburb of Oxford, about the ninth hour; and on Wednesday next following in the morning he was viewed by John Wyth, king's coroner of the town of Oxford; and he had one wound on the top of his head, in length five inches, and in depth even to the brain. And immediately afterwards an inquest was held thereon, before the said coroner, by the oath of William Mek, Henry de Brampton, Walter Golde, Roger le Barber, Richard atte Corner, William de Oogges, Henry de Beaumont cook, Richard de Sutton, Robert de Heyford, Thomas de Bolenhurst, John Buffard, Roger Bost, Thomas Bost, Peter de Hanneburgh, and William de Lungespey, sworn men of the parish of St. Mary Magdalen; Bricius de Leverton, Robert King, William de Hanneburgh, Richard de Linit, Adam de Graunceden, and Ralf de Conele, sworn men of the parish of Holy Cross; William Howel, William de Coleshale, Ralf de Barber, John de Odyham, Ralf de Ocle, William de Goseford, and Peter le Cureur, sworn men of the parish of St. Michael North; Roger de la Corner, William de Stourton, Simon de Pettypont, John de Yreland, Henry de Bristol, and John de Boterwyk, sworn men of the parish of St. Mary the Virgin. And all the said jurors say upon their oath that on Sunday before the feast of St. Mathias the apostle, when it was late, Robert de Brampwyth

stood in the high street before the shop of Roger le Barber, in the parish of St. Mary Magdalen, in the suburb of Oxford, and Henry le Petit, manciple, dwelling at Well Hall, and Thomas de Fenton, clerk, came there, and because of a strife that had been between them and the said Robert they assaulted him; and the said Henry smote him with a sword which he bare in his hand, and gave him the said wound on the head; thereof he died on the day and hour aforesaid; but he lived through eight days and a half after he was wounded, and had all his church rights. And the said jurors say that Thomas de Fenton was consenting and aiding to his death; and afterwards at once the said Thomas fled, so that he could not be secured, nor could anything be discovered about his goods. And afterwards the said Henry was secured for this occurrence in the hundred without the North Gate of Oxford by the bailiff of the said hundred, and remains in prison.

The parish of St. Mary Magdalen was not within the town of Oxford, but was in North Gate Hundred which had its own bailiff and its own local court. Although the officers of the town were allowed to arrest malefactors who fled into the north suburb, yet the proper officer was the bailiff of the hundred. Well Hall was at the east end of Broad Street; "high street" outside North Gate is now called Magdalen Street.

**JOHN DE HERLESEYE**; Monday, April 10, 1307 (Twyne iv. 17).

It came to pass on Monday after the feast of St. Ambrose, in the 35th year of the reign of King Edward, that John de Herleseye, clerk, was found dead in the pasture called Portmaneyt, by Oxford, at the first hour. John Fimme, of Wolvercote, first found him dead, and immediately raised the hue. And afterwards at once he was viewed by John Wyth, king's coroner of the town of Oxford, and he had a wound in his left eye two inches in length, and in depth even to the brain. An inquest was held thereon on the same day before the said coroner by the oath of John Cubbel, Simon Colin, John Greybert, Simon Attelhulle, Richard Attelane, and John Freman of Portmaneyt, sworn men of the village (*villata*) of Wolvercote; John de Note, Hugh Rolves, John Godefrey, John le Chapman, Edmund Attewelle, David Ayllun, William Chafford and Thomas Attelhulle, sworn men of the village of Binsey; Thomas Pouke, Walter de

Tabele, William de Coventre, Walter de Whitfeld, William Pouke, and William le Chapman, sworn men of the parish of St. Giles; Thomas Bost, Robert de Milton, Henry de Brampton, Thomas le Hore, Reginald le Heyward, and John le Heyward, sworn men of the parish of St. Mary Magdalen. And all the said jurors say upon their oath that on the Sunday before, after the hour of vespens, John de Herlessey, Richard de Hedlem, Alan de Thornuby, and William Erym, clerks, with others unknown, came to the abbey of Godstow, by Oxford, with swords, bucklers, and other arms, and there made an assault on certain servants of the abbey, and beat, wounded, and evil intreated them; whereby the hue was raised over them; to which there came men of the district to maintain the peace of the king, as is commanded in the statute of Winchester, and would have arrested the said malefactors and disturbers of the peace. Who, when they saw the people coming up, at once began to flee across the water of the Thames with all their might, as best they could, towards Oxford; and when they came in the pasture of Portmaneyte, over against Binsey, being in the liberty of Oxford, the said John de Herlessey raised a quarrel against Richard and his companions, using words of contempt, and laying to their charge that all the evil they had done there was done through the abetting and the means of the said Richard, and first begun by him; for which cause the said John began to strive with them with all his might and with a staff which he had in his hand he smote the said Richard on the shoulder, whereby he almost fell to the ground; and Richard forthwith ran at him, and with a drawn dagger (*misericorde*), which he bare in his hand, he smote him in the eye, even to the brain, as is aforesaid; whereof immediately he died. And the said jurors say that the said Alan de Thorneby and William Erym were consenting and aiding at the murder. And immediately the men of the district, who were ever pursuing because the hue had been raised, came up with them there and secured them. And they brought the said Robert, Alan, and William to the abbey aforesaid, and kept them there until the Monday; on which day the bailiffs of the town of Oxford came there and demanded that they should be delivered to them to be kept in their own prison, because they were secured upon (ground within) the liberty of Oxford; and they were delivered to them at the spot where they were secured and were taken to Oxford, and there they remain in prison. Pledges that the said finder will appear before the king's justiciars when first they come to

those parts for assizes are Edmund Attewell and Thomas Aylm.

Although John de Herlessey was killed on Sunday, it appears that his body was not found until Monday morning. We may conclude from this that night was falling when the clerks were caught in Port Meadow, and that the details of their quarrel among themselves were known, not from what the pursuers were able to see, but from what the criminals said after their arrest. This inquest gives a lurid picture of the mediæval undergraduate; a band of them spend the Sunday afternoon in committing burglary and murder. Portmaneyte (*i.e.*, Portmeadow) and Binsey were outlying portions of the town of Oxford, although the former was in the parish of Wolvergot.

JOHN, SON OF MILO DE STAPELTON; May 29, 1307 (printed in Oxford City Documents, p. 168; from Twyne iv. 31).

NICHOLAS DE CRESSINGHAM; Tuesday, April 8, 1320 (Twyne iv. 116).

It came to pass on Tuesday after the feast of St. Ambrose, in the thirteenth year of King Edward, son of King Edward, that John de Strete found Nicholas de Cressingham dead in the high street opposite the tenement of John de Dokelynton; and the same day Thomas de Grandpund and Reginald Yve, king's coroners of the town of Oxford, came and viewed the said Nicholas dead, and immediately held an inquest about his death from the four nearest parishes by the oath of Walter Golde, John Mey, Henry le Steker, Robert le Mareschall, Richard le Parker, John de Bernewell, Richard de Stratford, Simon le Mercer, Robert de Stokes, Thomas Ansel, Walter le Dyer, John atte Dich, Richard de Kynesham, John de la Corner, and John le Forester; who say upon their oath that there was a dissension between William de Spaldynge and Thomas de Wallingford over a house and for other causes; so that the said William de Spaldynge, Nicholas de Hasscheby, John de Spaldynge, and Nicholas de Cressingham met Thomas de Wallingford on Monday last after dark (*in sero*) in the high street opposite the tenement which was once of William Burnell, and there the said William de Spaldynge smote Thomas de Wallingford with his fist, and Nicholas de Hasscheby smote him on the side with a stone; and John de Spalding had an iron fork; and Nicholas de Cressingham smote the said Thomas de Wallingford with a "macewell" on

the head and wounded him. And when Thomas de Wallingford perceived this, he raised the hue over them, and fled towards Carfax as far as opposite the tenement of John de Dokelynton; and the aforesaid pursued him with all their might, so that the said Thomas could not escape because of the tables of the fishmongers; and when he perceived that he could not escape he drew his knife and smote Nicholas de Cressingham on the left breast even to the heart; and so he slew him in self-defence, and immediately the said Thomas was secured.

Twyne says that this record came from the roll of Thomas de Grandpund and Reginald Yve, which ran from July 8, 1319, to July 8, 1320. Towards the top of St. Aldate's Street (of old called Fish Street) the fishmongers had stalls in front of the houses, for which they paid rent to the city. It is evident that the stalls were not removed at night. The entrance to Tom Quad occupies the site of Burnell's Inn; the house of John de Dokelinton was where the Post Office now is.

**NICHOLAS DE BYTERLE**; Sunday, Nov. 18, 1320 (Twyne iv. 102).

It came to pass on Sunday the feast of St. Edmund, the archbishop, in the fourteenth year of King Edward, son of King Edward, that Nicholas de Byterle died in his house on Grandpont, and Thomas de Grandpont and William de Wytewang, king's coroners of the town of Oxford, came and viewed him dead, and they held an inquest about his death by the oath of Robert le Mareschall, Robert de Grendon, Peter le Scherman, William Gulgath, John de Grove, Robert de Stoke, Walter de Faredon, Geoffrey de Warmwelle, Robert de Puntele, Henry de la Mare, Henry de Eston, John Rodeplonte, and Nicholas de Grandpund; who say upon their oath that on the Saturday before, after dark, there was a strife of words between Nicholas de Byterle and Simon de Charchedon, clerk; so that the said Nicholas first smote the said Simon on the head with a dagger (*misericoorde*), and the said Simon smote him back with a "*bedonwe*" in the stomach beneath the navel; and so he slew him, and immediately he fled towards Abingdon; it is not known whither. And they say that Nicholas had his church rights; wherefore there was no first finder. Also they say that they know nothing about the goods of the said Simon.

Grandpont means the High Street from south gate to south bridge, now the lower part of St. Aldate's

Street. Twyne says that this and the next inquest came from the roll of Thomas de Grandpont and William de Wytewang, from July 8, 1320, to July 8, 1321.

**THOMAS LYNET**; Friday, June 28, 1321 (Twyne iv. 102).

It came to pass on Friday after the feast of St. John Baptist, in the fourteenth year of King Edward, son of King Edward, that Thomas Lynet died in a house of scholars within the east gate; and the said coroners came and viewed him dead, and immediately held an inquest about his death by the oath of Walter Ayllemere, William de Bampton, John de Cookesgrave, Walter de Garsyngton, John Prust, Nicholas de Gletton, John de Whaston, Andrew Faber, William Attemor, Nicholas de Dryhull, Roger de Elsefeld, Martin Toky, and William le Dyer; who say upon their oath that on the previous day one Haimo de Lynford, in the company of two strangers, was stirring up a conflict against the clerks; so that the said Haimo drew his bow, and with a small arrow shot the said Thomas Lynet on the left side above the "*canalbon*" to the depth of five inches, and so he slew him, and immediately he and his companions fled to the wood of Shotover, and no one could approach them because of their arms. Also they say that they know nothing about the goods of the said Haimo; for he was a stranger.

**JOHN DE BORWOPE**; Tuesday, April 10, 1324 (Twyne iv. 125).

It came to pass on Tuesday after the feast of St. Ambrose, in the seventeenth year of King Edward, son of King Edward, that John de Borwope (†) Staynmor, was found dead in the hall which was of Alice Mymekan, by east gate over against the walls of the town, and the coroners came and viewed him dead, and held an inquest about his death by the oath of William Attelee, John de Colesbourne, John le Mareschall, Henry de Bedeford, John Attemore, Walter de Henney, Simon le Curreur, Thomas Cocus, John de Staunden, Robert de Amondesham, Walter de Milton, William Pope, and John de Tame; who say upon their oath that John Feynel, writer, of the county of Chester, came with a falchion in the suburb of Oxford without the north gate after dark and smote the said John on the head in the face across the nose on Sunday, the feast of the Annunciation, the same year, so that he died thereof. They say also that he had his church rights; wherefore there is no first finder. Also they say that the felon fled; it is not known

whither, and that they know nothing about the goods of the felon.

A "hall" means merely "dwelling-house," and many errors have arisen from assuming that a hall must mean an academic hall or dwelling-house.

JOHN MURTHUR; Saturday, June 2, 1324 (Twyne iv. 125).

It came to pass on Saturday after the feast of St. Nichomede, in the seventeenth year of King Edward, son of King Edward, that John Murthur, clerk, fled to the church of St. Mildrid, and owned before the coroners that he had robbed a squire, by name John le Bonde de Bernynton, on the Friday after Ash Wednesday, in the high road between Wycombe and Beaconsfield, by Blesper, of a robe with a hood of blue and burnet and of three shillings of silver; wherefore precept was given that he should be watched; and he broke from the church the next night by the counsel and aid of Adam de Osegodby, clerk, and others whose names are unknown.

ADAM DE OSEGODBY; Friday, June 3, 1324 (Twyne iv. 125).

It came to pass on Friday before the feast of St. Barnabas, in the seventeenth year of King Edward, son of King Edward, that John Puncard found Adam de Osegodby, clerk, dead in the high street within the north gate. The coroners came and viewed him dead, and at once held an inquest about his death from the four neighbouring parishes by the oath of John de Odyham, Richard de Hampton, John Waget, John Oo, Robert de Quenington, John de Staunden, William de Sutton, Thomas le Iryn-monger, John de Walton, Walter de Hanneye, Peter de Ewe, John de Hedenham. Who say upon their oath that one Ernald Flyngaunt, who was guarding a felon who had fled to the church, smote the said Adam de Osegodby with a dagger in the stomach below the navel, and so slew him. Also they say that the said Ernald fled, whither is not known, because it was after dark. They say also that he had no goods. Pledges of the finder are John de Lungad and John de Eggeslade.

It seems that Adam, having conspired on the Sunday night to effect the escape of a criminal from St. Mildred's church, was similarly occupied four days later outside the church of St. Michael, but the hired watchman whose business was to prevent the escape of the prisoner was so provoked

by Adam that he stabbed him and so ended his tempestuous and unscholarly career. We see from the next two inquests that in the same evening Adam had assaulted the constable of the peace and given him a mortal wound, and had also murdered another townsman.

RICHARD OVERHE; Monday, July 2, 1324 (Twyne iv. 125).

It came to pass on Monday next after the feast of St. Peter and St. Paul that Richard Overhe was found dead in his own house, in the parish of St. Martin. The coroners came and viewed the said Richard and held an inquest about his death from the four neighbouring parishes by the oath of John de Staunden, William de Sutton, Richard de Burcester, Thomas Irynmonger, William de Wormenhale, John Attemor, William Betreton, Gilbert Fourbour, John de Ew, Adam de Farle, William Attemor, William Ottale. Who say upon their oath that on Thursday before the feast of St. Barnabas, between curfew and midnight, there came Richard Wakelyn and Adam de Osegodby, and met the said Richard, who is now dead, being constable of the peace, to preserve the king's peace, with swords, bucklers, and other arms, and beat him and wounded him, and smote him on the head under the ear, whereof he died. They say also that Robert de Seint Mor, abiding at Olifaunthall, and Thomas Maunciple (*lixx*), of Castellhall, were aiding and advising at the murder. They say also that the goods of the felons are in their lodgings, and that Richard had his church rights; and therefore there is no finder.

Castell Hall was on the north side of Brasenose Lane, Oliphant Hall on the south side. Manciples were something between a bursar and a college cook, and from many records it is evident that they were not unwilling to have a hand in the outrages of undergraduates. This is noteworthy; for nowadays if an undergraduate intends to make a disturbance he does not invite the bursar or the college cook to aid him. The explanation may be as follows: The manciple was to a certain extent partner with the Principal of the Hall, and both were interested in making the hall popular; it was the business of the Principal to make it popular with the studious student, of the Manciple to make it popular with the student of the other sort, such as Adam de Osegodby. The house of Richard Overhe, as we learn from deeds at All Souls, is now the Three Cups in Queen Street.

**JOHN DE STAUNFORD; Tuesday, July 3, 1324**  
(Twyne iv. 47 and xxiii. 164).

It came to pass on Tuesday after the feast of the apostles, Peter and Paul, in the seventeenth year of King Edward, that John de Staunford le Shere-man was found dead in a shop where he abode by the house of William de Pyrye, in the parish of St. Martin. The said coroners came and viewed him dead and held an inquest about his death by the oath of John de Weston, John Bachet, Richard de Mutton, Walter de Cudelynton, Richard de Hampton, Symon le Curreour, Ralf de Hardynton, Richard de Gloucestre, John de Musterton, Symon le Taylur, John de Walton, Thos. Chichley. Who say that Adam de Osegodby about midnight met the said John and smote him in the breast with a piece of iron fixed in the end of a staff, whereof he died; and Richard Walkelyn, Thomas Manciple del Castellhall, Robert de St. Mor, Benedictus de Carleolo, Robert de Heselbech, William de Kyllum, William de Aldwykes, Adam de Howton, clerks, were assenting and aiding at the said murder. They say also that Robert de St. More abides at Olyfaunt Hall, Benedictus Carleol abides at Saucer Hall, Adam de Howton at Castell Hall, and their goods are in their lodgings. And they say that the said John had his church rights; and therefore there is no first finder.

Twyne has omitted to copy the words which would give the date of the assault. There can be little doubt that it was on June 7th, and that John survived nearly four weeks. Thomas Manciple, of Castellhall, is the same as Thomas Lixa of the last inquest, Lixa meaning a "sutler" or "attendant." Robert de St. Mor was also mentioned. Saucer Hall was in Turl Street not far north of All Saints Church.

**JOHN COLLES; Monday, Oct. 29, 1341 (Coroner's Roll 129, Record Office).**

It came to pass on Monday after the feast of St. Simon and St. Jude, in the 15th year of Edward III., that John Colles, of Shyrebourne, a prisoner in the Castle Prison, died in the prison. William de Whatele and Richard de Eynesham, coroners, came on the said Monday and viewed him dead, and held an inquest from the four nearer parishes, to wit, St. Peter's in the Bailey, St. Ebbe's, St. Aldate's, and St. Thomas the Martyr's, by the oath of Ric. de Warburgh, Will. le Dyegher, Walter de Quenyton, John Both, Will. de Gretworth, Thos. Godestre, Rob. de Claneheld, Thos. de Legh, baker, Will. Manfey, John Cosyn, Ric. le Hopper, and

Thos. de Stanlake; who say that the said John Colles fell sick and died a natural death, and that he endured no undue rigour nor any injury from the warden of the prison or other; and that he had his church rights.

We now begin a roll which gives a complete record of inquests for some years, and enables us to judge more fairly of the frequency of murder, suicides, and accidents than is possible from the selections of Twyne. The roll is headed "Roll of William de Whatele and Richard de Eynesham, King's Coroners of the town of Oxford, from Friday after Michaelmas, 1341, to Jan. 25, 1342"; but, as will be seen, it is continued from year to year.

**WILLIAM DAUNDESEGHE; Monday, Oct. 29, 1341 (Coroner's Roll, 129).**

It came to pass on the said Monday after the feast of St. Simon and St. Jude that Will. Daundeseghe, of Stanlake Quystrim (?), died in Grope Lane, in an upper room in the tenement of William de Merah, in the parish of St. Mary. On the same Monday the coroners viewed him, and held an inquest by the four nearer parishes, St. Mary's, St. John's, St. Peter's in the East, and St. Edward's, by the oath of Thos. le Iryah, Rob. de Lyndesey, John Pille, John Attenoke, Ric. le Tayllur, Peter le Flecher, Rog. de Swynsford, John de Baldyndon, Thos. Abraham, Will. Marchaund, Rob. de la Chaunmbre, and Rob. Baldewyn; who say that the said Will. Daundeseghe on the Saturday before the feast of St. Simon and St. Jude, at Woodcock Halle, in the parish of St. Mary, went to bed at night, being manciple (*lixe*) there, and sleeping in the kitchen; and he fixed his candle against the wall above his bed, and lay down and forgot to put the light out, and fell asleep; and while he was asleep the lighted candle fell upon the bed, and so burnt him nearly to death; and on Sunday, the next day, they carried him from the kitchen to the said upper room; and there on the said Monday he died of his burns; and they say that no one was counselling or aiding his death; and they say that he had nought in goods nor had he lands or tenements, nor was in the ward, for he was a servant of clerks; and he had his church rights, therefore he had no finder; and John de Byford, principal of Wokekok Halle, was attached, and he found pledges, viz., John de Waabstone and John de Cokesgrave. This happened in south-east ward.

Woodcock Hall is 91, High Street; Grope Lane is now Grove Street.

**ROLL OF WILL. DE WHATELE AND RIC. DE EYNESHAM**, Coroners from Jan. 25, anno 16, to Jan. 25, anno 17 (i.e., Jan. 25, 1342, to Jan. 25, 1343).

**MATILDA POUK**; May 16, 1342.

It came to pass on Thursday after the feast of the Ascension that Matilda, wife of Ric. Pouk, known as le Sawyer, died in the parish of St. Giles, at Walton, in the house of the said Richard. The Coroners viewed her, and held an inquest by the four nearer parishes, St. Giles', St. Thomas the Martyr's, St. Peter's in the Bailey, and St. Ebbe's, by the oath of John de Walyford, Hen. de Colne, John de Whytele, Ric. de Seucwordh, Ric. de Cherlton, Will. Pouk, John Poocke, John Clyne, Thos. de Worton, John de Ledecombe, Walt. de Fynstok, Hen. Upestrete; who say that the said Matilda was sick with diverse diseases and old, and on the Monday before the said Thursday she died a natural death. And because there was much talk that her husband beat her unduly, therefore the body was rolled over and over before the eyes of the coroners; and there was no injury in body or head or limbs. They say also that she had her church rights; and this came to pass in Walton, within the liberty of Oxford; and that none was guilty of her death.

**EDMUND LE TAILOR**; Wednesday, May 22, 1342 (Coroner's Roll, 129).

It came to pass on Wednesday in Whitsun week that Edmund, son of Thomas le Tailor, of Woodstock, a prisoner in the Castle Prison, died there; the coroners viewed him, and held an inquest by the four nearer parishes, viz., St. Thomas the Martyr, St. Ebbe, St. Peter le Bailey, and St. Aldate, by the oath of John de Falle, Michael Pille, John le Passur, Alex. Gardyner, Nic. le Clerk, Rob. de Newynton, Walt. de Quenynton, Will. Manfey, Thomas Godestre, John Cosyn, Ric. le Hopper, and John Soth; who say upon their oath that the said Edmund was sick, and of the said sickness died a natural death; and that he had no injury or undue oppression from the warden of the prison, and he had his church rights.

**ROBERT LE TAILOR**; Sunday, May 26, 1342 (Coroner's Roll, 129).

It came to pass on Sunday, the feast of the Holy Trinity, that Robert, son of Thos. le Tailor, of Woodstock, brother of the aforesaid Edmund, a prisoner in the Castle Prison, died there; he was viewed by the coroners, and an inquest was held from the four nearer parishes, St. Thomas, St. Ebbe,

St. Peter in the Bailey, and St. Aldate, by the oath of Thos. de Legh, baker, John de Legh, John Soth, Ric. de Abydon, Will. le Dygher, Laur. de Mason, Michael Pille, Nic. de Croulton, Ric. de Lacheford, Will. de Wormenhale, Will. le Webbe, Thos. de Hasele; who say that the said Robert was sick with diverse diseases, and by reason thereof died a natural death, and that he endured no undue injury or oppression from the warden of the prison or other; and that he had his church rights.

**THOMAS ASTOL**; Wednesday, June 5, 1342 (Coroner's Roll, 129).

It came to pass on Wednesday before the feast of St. Barnabas that Thomas Astol, of Walton, died in a house within the priory of St. Frideswide. The coroners viewed him in the house, and held an inquest from the four nearer parishes, St. Michael's South, St. Aldate, St. Edward, and St. Ebbe, by the oath of Will. de Cloudesdale, John Bolter, John With, Peter le Flecher, John de Elysfeld, Will. Fayregh, Roger le Schereman, John Yunge, Nic. le Skynnere, John le Peyntour, Rog. Carpenter, and Thos. de Tryllemille; who say that on Monday before the said Wednesday in the said house, John Astol, after dinner, was sitting to eat with a knife in his hand with which he cut his bread, and he was very drunk, and he began to slumber, and, falling asleep as he was sitting, he fell upon his knife, and was wounded around the navel, of which he died on the said Wednesday; and he had his church rights; and the knife was valued at one penny, and his other goods at sixpence; and they remain in the keeping of the bailiffs, viz., John de Norton and John Peggi. This happened in south-east ward.

**WALTER LE TAILLOUR**; Monday, July 8, 1342 (Coroner's Roll, 129).

Inquest held before Hen. de Geddyng, coroner of the King, and William de Whatele, one of the coroners of the town of Oxford, concerning the death of Walter le Tailleur, in the suburb of Oxford, in his house in the parish of St. Thomas the Martyr, on Monday after the feast of the translation of St. Thomas the Martyr, by the four nearer parishes, viz., St. Thomas the Martyr, St. Giles, St. Michael's North, and St. Peter in the Bailey, by the oath of Rob. Clyne, Rob. de Hoggston, Will. le Whire, Michael Pille, Walter de Vanriole, Ric. Pouk, Peter Auyce, Ric. de Hampton, John de Hampton, John Ouremaister, John Campedene, and Roger le Baker; who say that on Sunday before the translation of

St. Thomas the Martyr at the hour of dusk one Nigel of Shropshire, an unknown person from the north, met one Walter le Tayllour in a street called Stokwell Street, in the hundred without the north gate, in the parish of St. Mary Magdalen, and with a knife, called "daggere," worth 2d., smote the said Walter in the back on the right side; whereof he died, having survived until the next Sunday. They say also that they know nothing about the goods of the felon; and after his felony he fled; whither, is not known, for it was at night; nor was he in a ward, for he was a stranger. They say also that the said Walter had his church rights; therefore, he had no finder; and that none other aided or abetted the death.

Stockwell Street is now Walton Street. Apparently in this reign the coroners of Oxford were associated with a "coroner of the King," in cases that occurred outside Oxford.

#### JOHN PENKRYCH; Monday, Oct. 14, 1342.

It came to pass on Tuesday after the feast of St. Dionysius that John Penkrych died in a suburb of Oxford, in the parish of Holy Cross, in a tenement of the master and brethren of the hospital of St. John without east gate. The coroners viewed him, and held an inquest from the four nearer parishes, Holy Cross, St. Peter-in-the-East, St. Mary-the-Virgin, and St. John, by the oath of John de Falle, Walter le Deighere, Will. de la More, sen., John de Bampton, Edm. de Bernyngham, Nic. de Brailles, Nic. de Gletton, Ric. le Couk, John de Tuwe, John de Tykhull, John Aueland, and Nic. Hamond; who say that on Tuesday after the feast of the beheading of St. John Baptist, in the said parish, in the King's Street, Adam Kyng feloniously wounded the said John Penkrych with an arrow after curfew in the right side, of which wound the said John sickened until the Monday after the feast of St. Dionysius, and then died. They say that they know nothing of the goods of the felon; and after his felony he fled; whither is not known, for it was at night. And the said John had his church rights; and the felon was in no ward, for he was a stranger; and they priced the bow and arrow at 4d.

#### STEPHEN DE MACKENEYE; Tuesday, Nov. 5, 1342.

It came to pass on Tuesday after the feast of All Saints that Stephen de Mackeneye died in the parish of St. Michael North, in the house of William Felawe. The coroners viewed him and held an in-

quest from the four nearer parishes, St. Michael North, St. Mildred, St. Peter-in-the-Bailey, and St. Martin, by the oath of Ric. de Sutton, John de Walyngford, Thos. de Worton, John de Eynesham, Will. Hereberd, John de Saxton, Rob. le Spuryere, John de Botele, John le Fourbour, Rog. le Shethere, John Waget, and Ric. le Fourbour, who say on their oath that the said Stephen died on the Monday before of a quincy in the throat; they say that none was guilty of his death, and he had his church rights.

Mors naturalis.

#### AGNES ATTE WITHEGE; Saturday, Nov. 23, 1342.

It came to pass on Saturday the feast of St. Clement that Agnes, daughter of John atte Withege, of Cleypore, died in the parish of All Saints in a tenement of William de Morden, of Salisbury. The coroners viewed her, and held an inquest from the four nearer parishes, All Saints, St. Martin, St. Edward, and St. Mary-the-Virgin, by the oath of Adam le Longe, Geof. de Overton, John de Watlynton, John le Disahere, Robert atte Chaumbre, Ric. de Ouyng, John le White, Will. de Shirebourne, John de Swanebourne, Will. de Ledhale, John Drossi, and Francis le Boucher, who say that the said Agnes the night before died suddenly of an ulcer in the throat; and they say none was to blame for her death.

Cleypore is now the hamlet of Clare in Pyrton parish.

#### THOMAS SPAYNE; Sunday, Dec. 28, 1342.

It came to pass on Sunday the feast of St. Thomas the Martyr that Thomas Spayne, clerk, was found dead in the parish of St. Mildred at Hampton Hall. The coroners came to the spot to perform their office there, and the men of the four nearer parishes, to wit, St. Mildred's, All Saints, St. Michael's North, and St. Edward's, did not come before them; therefore, through default of the district they could hold no inquest on that day. On Monday, the next day, the coroners came to the spot, and the men of the four nearer parishes did not come before them, and through their default no inquest could be held that day. But on Tuesday the coroners came to the spot and held an inquest from the four parishes aforesaid, by the oath of John de Stangrave, Thos. de Gonswardby, Robert St. John, John de Brampton, Rad. de Cetrynton, Thos. de Worton, Rog. de Landesdale, Will. le Carpenter, Will. de la More sen., John de Saxton, John Uremaystre, and Ric. de Sut-



ton, who say that William de Plumpton, scrivener ("soryveyn") on Saturday before the feast of St. Thomas the Martyr, in the parish of St. Mildred, after curfew feloniously slew the said Thomas Speyne, wounding him with an arrow in the right side. Of the goods of the felon they know nothing. After his felony he fled; whither is not known, for it was night; and he was in no ward, for he was a stranger. Thomas Bochart was the first finder, and Ric. Cromphorn and John de Walishe were his pledges that he would appear before the judges when they next came to the county. The bow and arrow were priced at 3d. They took place in north-east ward.

Hampton Hall was on the east side of Turl Street, about the middle of the front of Lincoln.

**MARIOTA**, of Wolvercote; Tuesday, Dec. 31, 1342.

It came to pass on Tuesday after the feast of St. Thomas the Martyr that Mariota, of Wolvercote, was found dead in the Thames by Portmeadow ("Portmanheit"). The coroners came to the spot and viewed her, and held an inquest from the four nearer villages ("villatis") and parishes, to wit, the villages of Binsey and Walton, and the parishes of St. Giles and St. Thomas, by the oath of Ric. le Sawyere, John Pecke, Henry atte Strete, Nic. le Noble, John de Brackele, Walter Cobb, Will. Brutte, John de Clopham, John de Lececombe, John Huwes, John le Fysshere, and Thos. atte Hachehe, who say that on Sunday the feast of St. Thomas the said Mariota, wishing to fill a jug with water at Godstow Mill, at the third hour fell into the water and was drowned, and was carried by the stream to the said spot. Roger Dicoun, of Curtlynton, was the first finder; his pledges are Ric. le Sawyer and John le Noble.

**ROLL OF WILLIAM DE WHATELE & RICHARD DE ENESHAM**, Coroners, from Jan. 25 anno 17 to Jan 25, anno 18.

**HUGH DE LEGHE**; Monday, Mar. 17, 1343.

It came to pass on Monday after the feast of St. Gregory that Hugh de Leghe died in the hall of William de Chilham in Shydyerd Street, in the parish of St. John; the coroners viewed him, and held an inquest by the nearer parishes, St. John's, St. Edward's, and St. Mary-the-Virgin's, by the oath of Rob. de la Chaumbre, Will le Skynner, John de Donytone, Roger de Swynsford, John de Brampton, Rob. de York, John de Wynhecombe, Steph. le Marechal, Will. le Smyth, Reginald le

Deghere, Nic. de Bralles, and Rog. Pyroun; who say that on the Sunday before the said Monday one Ric. de Langeleghe, of Lancashire, came in the evening and made an assault on the said Hugh in a street called School Street in the parish of St. Mary-the-Virgin, and the said Richard smote him in the throat with a bodkin ("boydekyn") worth one penny and wounded him so that he died; and he had his church rights. They know nothing of the goods of the felon and he was in no ward, being a clerk. And this took place in the north-east ward; and the parish of St. Peter in the East did not come to the inquest. And the bailiffs had been ordered to take the said felon.

**HENRY DE BORDESLE**; Monday, Mar. 17, 1343.

It came to pass on Monday after the feast of St. Gregory that Henry de Bordesle died in the house of Ric. le Coke in the parish of St. Thomas-the-Martyr in the suburb of Oxford; the coroners viewed him and held an inquest from the nearer parishes, to wit, St. Thomas, St. Peter in the Bailey, and St. Michael North, by the oath of Will. de Fencote, Michael Pille, Ric. Bate, Will. Forthwyn, Ric. de Warborughe, John de Caumpedene, Will. le White, Rob. le Fysshere, Ric. Comtone, Rob. de Hoggestone, John Basse, and Walter de Quedyntone; who say that the said Henry had long been sick with diverse diseases, and on the Saturday before the said Monday he took a knife and smote himself in the belly, for he was as it were mad; and afterwards he lived until the Sunday and then died of his wound; and the knife is priced at one penny. And they say that he had his church rights; and he had nought in goods. And the parish of St. Ebbe did not come to the inquest. And Richard le Coke was attached to find pledges, but said he would not.

Felo de se, in the margin.

**JOHN BOTTE**; Tuesday, April 1, 1343.

It came to pass on Tuesday before the feast of St. Ambrose that John Botte of Garford died in the Castle prison. The coroners came and viewed him there, and held an inquest from the four nearer parishes, St. Peter in the Bailey, St. Martin, St. Ebbe, and St. Aldate, by the oath of John de Falle, Ric. de Warborughe, Walt. de Quenytton, Rob. de Hoggeston, John de Hales, Thos. de Horspath, Will. de Gruteworth, Ric. de Lacheford, Ric. de Leghe, Phil. de Bathe, Nic. de Pubblesbury, and Stephen le Taillour; who say that the said John

de Garford prisoner was taken with a horse and put in the said prison; and slesed with grievous illness, he died a natural death; and he endured no injury or undue hardness from the warden of the prison or from others.

**A BABY; Friday, May 9, 1343.**

It came to pass on Friday after the feast of St. John before the Latin Gate that a girl was found dead in the Thames by the mansion of the Friars Minors. The coroners came there and held an inquest from the four nearer parishes, to wit, St. Thomas the Martyr, St. Ebbe, St. Aldate, and St. Peter-le-Bailey, by the oath of Ric. de Warborughe, Will. de Gruteworth, John Sothe, Michael Pille, Hen. Bourne, Rob. Graunt, Ric. Bate, John Hereward, Ric. Lachford, Ric. Draper, John le Webbe, and Philip de Bath; who say that the said girl was half a day old, as they believe, and was carried by the stream to the said spot, and they knew not the father or mother, nor whence she came; and they say that she had no name that they know. They say also that she was not baptised, as they believe, by the sign that the navel was not tied. Asked whether any aided or counselled the death, they say they know nothing. The first finder was William Sweyn, waynepayn; his pledges are Philip de Bathe and John le Webbe.

**WILLIAM LE COUPERE; Wednesday, June 11, 1343.**

It came to pass on Wednesday, St. Barnabas Day, that William le Coupere of South Leigh, being in the Castle prison, died there. The Coroners came there on the said Wednesday and viewed him dead and held an inquest from the four nearer parishes of St. Thomas, St. Ebbe, St. Aldate, and St. Peter in the Bailey, by the oath of Ric. de Warborughe, Rob. de Newentone, Walter de Quenyntone, Thos. de Horspathe, Thomas de Stanlake, Will' de Grutte-worth, Ric' de Lacheford, Joh' le Webbe, Thomas de Lughteborughe, Walter de Braye, Roger le Smyth, and Joh' de Bathe; who say that William le Coupere, accused by William Coffyn, was taken with 3 cart-horses (jumentorum), 2 colts, 1 pultre, at the suit of the said William, and so died by natural death, for he was sick with diverse diseases; and he suffered no undue hardship from the warden of the prisoners or from other; and he had his church rights.

**Saturday, Nov. 2, 1342.**

**On Saturday, the Feast of Souls, 16 Ed. III., John**

son of Rob. le Wyntaverner of Winchester came at Oxford before William de Whatele and Richard de Eynesham, coroners of Oxford, and John de Brehull and John de Bereford, bailiffs of the town, and found pledges of prosecuting Robert Bryan on a charge of felony, viz., that on Thursday, the Vigil of All Saints, at night at le Broken Croys between Mereham and Abingdon he robbed the said John of a horse and 10 salmons, value 13s. 4d., and took the horse and salmons to Oxford, and there they were found with him and secured; whereof the said John accuses the said Robert. The pledges are Alan de Hetone and John Best.

**Saturday, Jan. 18, 1343.**

On Jan. 18, 16 Ed. III., Thomas Lambherde, of Mereham, came before the said coroners and bailiffs at Oxford and found pledges of prosecuting John de Hedescombe as a felon, on the charge that on Thursday after the day of St. Hillary, at Middleton by Sutton in Berks at night he feloniously robbed him of 8 sheep, worth 8s., and took them to Oxford; and there the sheep were found with him and secured. Pledges, John Lokyng, John Harald.

**EASTER MONDAY; April 14, 1343.**

This indenture between the coroners of Oxford and John de Alvetone sheriff testifies that the coroners have delivered to the Sheriff the cause and process of an accusation made before them and the bailiffs of Oxford by Nicholas de Mersstone, servant of the King at Woodstock, against Robert de Biltone of Holderness, for robbery and breach of the peace, viz., that on Monday in Easter week he appeared before the coroners and bailiffs and found pledges, viz., John Mymecan and John le Peyntoun, that he would prosecute the said Robert as a felon on the charge that on Easter eve, 17 Ed. III., between Woodstock and Wolvercote, in the hundred of Wootton, he robbed the said Nicholas of a carthorse (jumento) of which he was in charge, belonging to the horses of the King, worth 100s., and took it away and did his will therewith.

**JOHN LE COC; July 4, 1343.**

It came to pass on Friday after St. Peter and St. Paul, 17 Ed. III., that Robert Ballard of Staunton first found John le Coc of Somerset, servant of the Abbey of Rewley, dead in the Thames by the Abbey. The coroners came and viewed him dead,

and held an inquest by the nearer parishes, viz., St. Thomas, St. Ebbe, and St. Peter in the Bailey, by the oath of Will. le Deghere, Ric. de Warborughe, John Soth, Geoffrey Mere, Will. le Peyntoun, John Damales, John le Chymber, John Bolemount, Will. Hoywode, Helyas le Taillour, William le Taillour, and Michael Pille; who say that John le Coc bathed in the Thames on Thursday without a companion and so was drowned. The parish of St. Giles did not come to the inquest. Pledges of the finder, Michael Pille and Will. le Deghere.

**THOMAS LE CRISLEMAKER; Monday,  
June 30, 1343.**

It came to pass on Monday after the feast of St. Peter and St. Paul that Will' de Tenkesbury first found Thomas le Crislemaker dead in a seld where he dwelt in the parish of St. Mary-the-Virgin. The coroners viewed him the same day, and held an inquest by the parishes of St. Mary, All Saints, St. Peter-in-the-East, and St. John, by the oath of John Clyve, Thomas de Horepathe, Thomas le Latoner, Henry Bagard, John Bureford, Walter Bunseye, William le Skynnar, John Cockesgrave, Edmund de Bermyngham, Thomas de Wormenhale, Ralf le Grasiere, and John le Latoner; who say that on Sunday, the feast of St. Peter and St. Paul, after curfew William de Tuttlestone came with others unknown in the High Street and assaulted the said Thomas, and he smote him in the breast to the heart with a knife, price 2d., whereof he died; so he slew him and fled, no one knows whither, for it was night. They say also that none other was aiding or procuring his death; of the goods of the felon they know nought, nor was he in a ward, for he was a clerk; and the bailiffs are bidden take the felon, if he should be found. Pledges of the finder, John le Latoner and John Croc.

"Crislemaker," whatever it may mean, is a new word for the English dictionary.

**MARGERY HERBARDES; Aug. 6, 1343.**

Inquest held at Oxford by Henry de Geddyngg, coroner of the king's household, and William de Whatele and Richard de Eynsham, coroners, Aug. 7, on the death of a prisoner who died in the town gaol, by the parishes of St. Michael N., St. Martin, St. Peter-le-Bailey, and St. Mildred, by the oath of William Attemore sen., John de Saxton, John de Sutton, Thomas de Wortone, William Herebard,

John de Walynghford, Henry Culme, John de Eynsham sadler, Robert le Spurrier, Richard de Goryng, Alexander le Shether, and William de London sadler, who say that the prisoner was Margery Herbardes of Wymbourne Minstre, and that she was taken at Oxford together with other robbers, having been accused before the bailiffs of coining money feloniously, and she was arrested with 17d. of counterfeit money in her possession, and she was indicted before John de Stonor and his companions on this charge, and on Aug. 6th she died a natural death.

The King was not "within the verge" on this day. Why the coroner of the King's household was present is not easy to explain.

**ADAM TAHA; Sept. 23, 1343.**

It came to pass on Wednesday after the feast of St. Matthew that Adam Taha, coriour, was dead in the tenement of Richard Pou[ ] in the parish of St. Giles. The same day the coroners viewed him dead, and held an inquest about his death by the parishes of St. Giles, St. Thomas, St. Ebbe, and St. Peter-le-Bailey, by the oath of John de Stangrave, Edward de Wyroestre, Richard de Seucworth, Stephen de Bramptone, John de Fritewelle, Walter le Leche, Robert Seynt Johan, William le Deghere, John Hulle, William Whiteman, William Gareford, and William Gilot, who say upon their oath that the said Adam died a natural death on Tuesday after St. Mathew; and because a rumour prevailed that Robert le Tableter, of Oxford, smote him with his fist on Monday, St. Giles's day, over the heart, therefore his body was viewed, and no injury was found therein, and he had his church rights. They say also that none was to be blamed for his death.

**HENRY DE OCLE; Sunday, Oct. 12, 1343.**

It came to pass on Tuesday after St. Dionysius that Richard de Northampton found Henry de Ocle, baker, of the county of Bedford, dead in the tenement of Richard de Wyndesore, in the parish of St. Peter-le-Bailey. The coroners viewed him there, and held an inquest by the parishes of St. Peter-le-Bailey, St. Ebbe, St. Martin, and St. Michael N., by the oath of Thomas de Godestre, John Soth, Richard le Hoppers, William Gruteworth, Robert Clanfeld, Thomas de Stanlake, Gilbert de Shipton, [ ] de Westone, Philip de Bathe, John de Walynghford, William Felaghe, and John de Wasche-

bourne, who say that John de Bampton, servant of John Peggy, feloniously slew Henry de Ocle on the Sunday before at night, in the suburb without the north gate in Irishmanstrete, in the parish of St. Mary Magdalen, and smote him with a staff on the head about midnight, whereof he died, and that Thomas de Bampton and Robert le Taverner were present and aiding, and the said felons were in the N.W. ward, and had in goods to the value of 2s., and the goods remain in the hands of John de Brehull and John de Bedeford, bailiffs; and the felons were secured. Pledges of the finder, Thomas de Horspathe and Robert de Newentone.

Irishmanstrete is now George Street.

JOHN THRESK; Sunday, Nov. 18, 1343.

It came to pass on Monday after the feast of St. Edmund, archbishop, that Geoffrey Russel, sawyer, found John Thresk, of the county of York, dead in the parish of St. Michael N. within the close of mag. Peter de Notyngham, parson of the said church. The same day the coroners came to perform their office, but the men of the four nearer parishes, viz., St. Michael N., St. Mildred, All Saints, and St. Martin did not come; wherefore for default of the district they could hold no inquest; but on Tuesday they came to the spot to perform their office, and the men of the four parishes did not come, so that they could hold no inquest. But on Wednesday the coroners came and viewed the said John, and held an inquest by the said four parishes by the oath of John Soth, Richard de Seucworth, Henry Torald, Philip de Hauvile, Thomas de Horspathe, John de Eynsham, John Croc, William le White, Robert le Hafter, Alexander le Shether, William Felaugh, and Stephen de Brampton, who say that John de Culvyntone, of the county of York, slew John Thresk on Sunday, the feast of St. Edmund, archbishop, at the hour of vespers within the close of the parson aforesaid, smiting him with a knife worth 2d. on the left side, of which wound he died at once; and at once he fled, none knows whither. He had no goods nor was he in a ward, for he was a clerk. This befell in north-east ward, and security was taken of mag. Pet. de Notyngham, parson of the church, by means of William de la More and John de Saxton. They say also that none other was aiding at his death. It was commanded the bailiffs to take the said John if he be found. Pledges of the first finder, William Felage and William de la More.

Peter de Notingham is an addition to the known rectors of St. Michael's.

NICHOLAS ERNEYS; Friday, Dec. 5, 1343.

It came to pass on Saturday the feast of St. Nicholas that Walter Buffard found Nicholas Erneys dead at Bonstallhalle, in St. Peter-in-E.; the coroners viewed him and held an inquest by the parishes of St. Peter-in-the-E., St. John, and St. Mary, by the oath of Richard le Coc, Roger Pyroun, Edmund de Bermyngham, Nicholas de Brayles, Nicholas de Glettone, Thomas Abraham, William le Mareschal, John de Shiptone, Thomas Wormenhale, John de Cockesgrave, Nicholas Gerlaund, and John Clyve; who say that on Friday before the said Saturday Laurence Breton, of Warwickshire, and Nicholas Erneys, had a contention before the said hall, and the said Laurence drew his knife and pursued the said Nicholas in the high street and smote him in the breast with the knife even to the heart, and fled at once, none knows whither; and the said Laurence had in goods to the value of 2s., and they remain in the hands of John de Brehull and John de Bedeford, bailiffs of Oxford; and this befell in south-east ward; and Roger Pyroun and John de Shipton being neighbours were attached, the former by Thomas Abraham and John de Baldyn-don, the latter by Nicholas de Gletton and Nicholas de Brayles. Pledges of the finder, John Cormeraunt and Robert de Lyndeseye.

Bonstallhalle is now Walford's shop. "Attached" means that security was taken from them.

ADAM PEDE; Wednesday, Jan. 14, 1344.

It came to pass on Wednesday after St. Hillary that Roger Blyc found Adam Pedes, son of John Pedes, of Thame, dead in St. Martin's parish, in the High Street. The coroners viewed him there, and held an inquest by the nearer parishes, viz., St. Martin's, St. Michael's N., and St. Peter-le-Bailey, by the oath of John de Bury, William Bettes, Gilbert le Sadeler, Richard Atte Chambre, Richard de Sutton, John de Milton, John de Redyng, John de Wattlyngtone, Hugh [ ], John de la Marche, and "Francissus" le Bucher; who say that John, son of John le Cordewaner, of Churchhulle, slew the said Adam on the said Wednesday in the High Street with a knife, worth 1d., smiting him in the back even to the heart, and John the felon was taken by the bailiffs and imprisoned; and he had in goods to the value of 2s., which remain in the

hands of John de Brehull, and John de Bedeford, the bailiffs; and this befell in N.E. ward; and the parish of All Saints' did not come to the inquest.

**WALTER LE DODDER AND ADAM LE SUTER;**  
Nov. 28, 1343.

Memorandum that on Wednesday after the feast of St. Katherine, 17 Ed. III., Walter de Dodder, of Sybford, approver, and Adam le Souter, of Feryngford, feloniously broke the prison of the Castle of Oxford by night and fled to the church of the Friars Minors, and the coroners came to the church and saw the said Walter and Adam there, and asked of them for what cause they fled to the church and kept themselves there, and they confessed before the coroners that they had broken the prison of the Castle of Oxford, and that they were common robbers of diverse robberies. The coroners required them to render themselves to the king's peace; they said they would not. The bailiffs, therefore, were ordered to have good custody lest they should escape. Afterwards on Wednesday after the feast of St. Lucy they broke (from) the said church and withdrew. And afterwards the coroners came on Wednesday after St. Hillary and held an inquest about their escape by the parishes of St. Martin, St. Michael N., and St. Peter-le-Bailey, by the oath of John de Bury, William Bettes, Gilbert le [ ], Richard Tyes, John atte Chaumbre, Richard de Sutton, John de Milton, John de Redyng, John de Wattyngton, [ ] Yeffels, John de la Marche, and Francisus le Bucher; who say the felons escaped from the church by night for want of custody; they say they had nought in goods, and were in no ward, for they were strangers; and this befell in South West warde; and the parish of All Saints did not come to the inquest.

The Wednesday after the feast of St. Lucy is December 17th; the criminals, therefore, remained three weeks in the church. The Greyfriars' Church was to the west of St. Ebbe's Church; it would be reached from the Castle as quickly as any church. An approver is much what we call king's evidence. It will be noticed that the jury is the same as in the inquest on Adam Pede, so that we are able to fill up the missing names.

**FRIDAY, JAN. 18, 1344.**

Memorandum that on Friday after the feast of St. Hillary, Thomas Pede, son of Thomas Pede, of Thame, came before Will. de Whatele and Ric. de

Eynesham, king's coroners of the town of Oxford, and found pledges that he would prosecute John, son of John le Cordewaner, of Churchhulle, on the charge that he feloniously slew Adam Pede, of Thame, on Wednesday, after the feast of St. Hillary, in the town of Oxford, in the parish of St. Martin, in the High Street; and the pledges he found were Walter le Deghere and John Haraston, both of Oxford.

**ROLL OF WILL. DE WHATELE AND RIC. DE EYNESHAM,** from Jan. 25, in the 18th year, to Jan. 25, in the 19th year.

**DAVID VOYL; Tuesday, Feb. 24, 1344.**

It came to pass on Tuesday after the feast of St. Peter-in-Cathedra, in the 18th year of Edward III., that David Voyl, clerk, from Wales, died at Spicershall, in the parish of St. Edward. The coroners came on that Tuesday and viewed him dead there, and held an inquest by the four nearer parishes, to wit, St. Edward's, All Saints', St. Martin's, St. Peter's-in-the-Bailey, by the oath of John de Swanebourne, John de Watlington, John le Disher, Will. Munt, Will. de Ledhale, John Clyve, John Hostiler, John de Broughton, Will. le White, John Wagget, John de Redyng, and Will. de Heywode, who say upon their oath that on Saturday before the feast of St. Peter-in-Cathedra Hugh Mymmes feloniously slew the said David Voyl, in the suburb of Oxford, in the parish of St. Thomas, by night, long after curfew; he shot him feloniously with an arrow in the belly, whereof he died; and at once the felon fled; whither, is not known, for it was at night. And they say that he had no chattels, lands, or tenements, nor was he in a ward; but he was of the manupast of the abbot of Oseney; and the said David had his church rights; therefore he had no finder. And the bow and arrow were priced at eightpence; and the bailiffs were bidden take the felon.

Spicer's Hall, in St. Edward's parish, was unknown to Wood. A servant was in "mainpast" of his master; and in some cases the master was responsible for his misdeeds.

**JOHN DE SNOWDOUNE; Tuesday, Feb. 24, 1344.**

It came to pass on Tuesday after the feast of St. Peter-in-Cathedra that John de Snowdouna, clerk, died in the hall of St. Lawrence, in the parish of St. Michael North. The coroners came that day

and viewed him dead, and held an inquest from the four nearer parishes, to wit, St. Michael's North, All Saints', St. Martin's, and St. Mildred's, by the oath of Henry Torald, Philip de Hauville, John de Eynesham, sadler, Bartholomew de Cornubia, Henry Colne, Walter de Quenyngtone, John Soth, Thomas de Stanlake, Michael Pille, Roger de Loundesdale, Will. de Gritteworth, Thomas de Henxeye; who say that Hugh Mymmes on the Saturday before the feast of St. Peter-in-Cathedra feloniously slew John de Snowdoun, clerk, in the suburb of Oxford, in the parish of St. Thomas; he shot him in the eye with an arrow by night, long after curfew; whereof he died. And at once the felon fled; whither, is not known. They say also that he had no chattels, lands or tenements, nor was he in a ward, but was of the manupast of the abbot of Oseney. And the said John had his church rights. And they priced the bow and arrow at sixpence; and the bailiffs were bidden take the felon.

St. Lawrence Hall was in Ship Street, not far from the corner into the Turl.

**ROBERT DE SHALLFORD**; Saturday, May 1, 1344.

It came to pass on Sunday after the feast of St. Philip and St. James, in the 18th year of Edward III., that John de Rydesdale first found Robert de Shallford, of Durham, dead at Bedefordhall, in the parish of St. Michael North. The coroners came that day and viewed him dead there, and held an inquest from the four nearer parishes, to wit, St. Michael's North, St. Mildred's, St. Martin's, and All Saints, by the oath of John de Lokynton, Will. de London, sadeler, Will. Pouk, John Sperauk, Will. Herbard, Hen. le Schatter, Rob. Flexman, Rob. le Taillour, Ric. Tyes, Roger le Shethere, Gilbert Berd and Roger Felawe; who say upon their oath that Roger le White of Chester feloniously slew Robert de Shalford on Saturday the feast of St. Philip and St. James by night long after curfew, in the king's way in the said parish; he smote him with a knife, value twopence, on the right side, even to the heart, and wounded him; whereof he died; and at once he fled; whither, is not known; for it was at night. They say that they know nothing about the goods, lands, and tenements of the felon; nor was he in a ward, for he was a clerk. They say also that none other was aiding or procuring at the death of the said Robert. And this befell in the North East ward. Pledges of the finder Will. Felaw and John de Walyngford.

This Bedford Hall is unknown. There was a Bedford Hall in Brasenose Lane, but it was in St. Mildred's parish, not St. Michael's.

**MATILDA DE GAREFORD**; Saturday, June 5.

It came to pass on Saturday after the feast of Holy Trinity that Matilda de Gareford died in the street and parish of St. Edward by the house of John de Swanebourne. The coroners came that day and viewed her dead, and held an inquest by the four nearer parishes, St. Edward's, All Saints, St. Michael's South, and St. Mary's, by the oath of John de Stangrave, John de Ardern, Rob. atte Chaumbre, Will. atte More, John de Shelden, Rob. Seyntjon, John Dros, Geof. de Overton, Will. atte Chaumbre, Rob. le Tableter, Will. de Stratton, and Walter le Skynner; who say upon their oath that on the Friday at the third hour Matilda wished to draw water from a well within the abode of John de Swanebourne, and by misfortune slipped and fell in the well, and afterwards arose from the well and ascended from it by a ladder; and she said that she would go home, and in going she fell down in the street and died there. Asked what was the cause of her death they say that she fell in the well; and they say that none other is to be blamed for her death, and that she had her church rights. Therefore an injunction was given to John de Swanebourne by the coroners and bailiffs that he should fill up the well under a penalty of twenty shillings. And security was taken from John de Swanebourne by means of Will. de Ledhale and Rob. de la Chaumbre.

St. Edward's Street is now Alfred Street. It is known that John de Swanbourne lived on the east side, at the back of the London and County Bank. The well was reckoned to be the cause of the death; as it could not be forfeited to the king, the owner was bidden fill it up.

**RICHARD BOST**; Thursday, Sept. 23, 1344.

It came to pass on Thursday after the feast of St. Mathew, apostle and evangelist, that Richard Bost died in a house (*aula*) where John Bost dwells by Draperyehalle, in the parish of St. Martin. The coroners came and viewed him, and held an inquest by the nearer parishes, to wit, St. Martin's, St. Peter's-in-the-Bailey, and St. Michael's North, by the oath of Ric. de Hampton, John Waget, Will. Felaghe, John de Eynesham, sadeler, Stephen de Brampton, John de Bury, Will. Heywode, John de

Redyng, Ric. de Warborgh, Rob. de Clenefeld, Walter de Quenyntone, and John Soth; who say upon their oath that on Monday the vigil of St. Mathew there came one John Jolyf, at Stokwelle-strete, in the suburb of Oxford, in the parish of St. Giles, after curfew, and made an assault on Richard Bost and smote him on the head with a great staff, whereof he died. They say also that John Cistewes and John Brown were aiding at the death of the said Richard. They say also that the said felons immediately fled; whither, is not known; for it was at night; and that the felons had nought in goods, nor lands nor tenements, that they know; but they were in north-west ward; and that Richard had his church rights. And the bailiffs were bidden take the felons, if they have been found. The parish of St. Giles did not come to the inquest.

Drapery Hall is now the Crown Inn in Cornmarket.

JOHN OF KENYNTONE; Wednesday, Oct. 20, 1344.

It came to pass on Wednesday after the feast of St. Frideswide that John, son of Bernard, of Kenynton, died in the church of St. Mildred. The coroners came the same day and viewed him there, and held an inquest by the four nearer parishes, to wit, St. Mildred's, All Saints', St. Michael's North, and St. Edward's, by the oath of John de Brampton, John de Stanegrave, Ralph le Grasiere, John Crooie, Will. atte More, John de Sheldon, Roger de Northwode, John Ankeland, Will. de Shirebourne, John de Schrovesbury, Geof. Puliter, and John le Selvre; who say that John le Welish, of Newcastle, feloniously slew John, son of Bernard, in the high street, in the parish of All Saints, on Tuesday, the feast of St. Frideswide, at the hour of vespers; he smote him with a knife on the left side even to the heart, whereof he died. They say also that John le Welish had nought in goods, nor was he in a ward, being a clerk. They say also that John, son of Bernard, had his church rights. And this befell in north-east ward, in the high street. And they priced the knife at twopence.

JOHN LE WELISH; Wednesday, Oct. 20, 1344.

It came to pass on Wednesday after the feast of St. Frideswide that John Attahulle, of Botele, first found John le Welish, of Newcastle, dead in a cellar, in a tenement of the abbees of Godstow, in Shidyrd, in the parish of St. Edward. The coroners came and viewed him the same day and held an inquest from the four nearer parishes, to wit,

St. Edward's, St. John's, St. Mary's, and St. Michael's South, by the oath of John Phelippe, John de Stanegrave, John de Stodleghe, John Sheldon, John Arderne, Roger le Pentarer, Adam le Cook, Robert le Tapermaker, John Cormeraunt, Will. Peyntour, Adam le Tailleur, and Robert de York; who say that John, son of Bernard de Kenynton, feloniously slew John le Welish on Tuesday, St. Frideswide's day, at the hour of vespers, in the high street, in the parish of All Saints; he smote him with a knife in the breast even to the heart; whereof he died. They say also that John, son of Bernard, had nought in goods. This befell in north-east ward, and they priced the knife at one penny. Pledges of the finder Adam de Welyngton and John de Stodleghe.

Shidyrd Street is now Oriel Street. Originally it extended south as far as the city wall, and this tenement of Godstow was on the south of Canterbury Gate of Christ Church.

JOHN DE LUFFENAM; Friday, Nov. 28, 1344.

It came to pass on Friday after the feast of St. Katherine that John de Swyneshulle first found John de Luffenam dead at Golyashalle, in the parish of St. Edward. The coroners came and viewed him, and held an inquest from the four nearer parishes, viz., St. Edward's, St. John's, St. Mary's, and St. Michael's South, by the oath of Richard Bate, Thomas Lugteborghe, Nicholas le Coriour, Robert de Wardyngton, John le Boltere, John de Bureford, Richard de Northfiete, John le White, Walter le Skynner, Will. Irish, Robert atte Chaumbre, and John de Swanebourne; who say that Hugo de Houdeby feloniously slew John de Luffenam on Thursday, St. Katharine's day, in the suburb of Oxford without North Gate, in Irishman-strete, in the parish of St. Mary Magdalen; he smote him in the breast with a knife even to the heart, whereof he died at once; and immediately he fled; whither is not known. They say also that John de Burgyngham, manciple, was aiding at the death. They say also that the felons had nought in goods, nor were they in a ward, for they were strangers; and that no one else was to be blamed for his death. And this befell at the hour of vespers. And they priced the knife at twopence. And the bailiffs are commanded to take the felons if they have been found. Pledges of the finder; John le Bolter and John de Bureford.

Golyas Hall is unknown to Wood. Irishman Street is now called George Street.

**ROBERT LE FRE; Friday, Jan. 21, 1345.**

It came to pass on Friday after the feast of S. Fabian and S. Sebastian that Richard Ragemuffyn, waynepayn, first found Robert le Fre, of Wyghtham, dead in the Thames without west gate, in the parish of St. Thomas. The coroners came and viewed him dead and held an inquest by the four nearer parishes, viz., St. Thomas, St. Peter-in-the-Bailey, St. Ebbe, and St. Aldate; by the oath of Richard de Warborghe, Thomas de Leghe, Thomas de Hompathe, Michael Pille, Robert le Fishere, Will. Maufey, John de Kyngeston, Ric. Godandfayr, Ric. le Milleward, Thomas de Henxeve, Henry Burgeys, and John Page; who say that Robert le Fre on Tuesday, the vigil of the Conception of S. Mary-the-Virgin, at the hour of vespers, was navigating a boat on the Thames between Seacourt ("Seukworth") mill and Oxford, and by misfortune fell from the boat into the Thames, and so was drowned. And they priced the boat at 3s.; and the bailiffs were bidden sieze the boat; and the jurors say that Rob. le Fre was brought by the current to the place where he was found, and that the boat belonged to the said mill. Pledges of the finder William Maufey, Ric. le Hoppere.

Seacourt Mill must have been between Wytham and Botley, but the whole village of Seacourt has disappeared. "Waynepayn" cannot be found in any dictionary; it was evidently the name of some trade.

**ROLL OF WILL. DE WHATELE AND RIC. DE HYNESHAM, from Jan. 25, 19 Ed. III., to Jan. 25, 20 Ed. III.**

**THOMAS MORE; Tuesday, Feb. 8, 1345.**

It came to pass on Wednesday after the feast of the Purification, in the 19th year of King Edward, that Roger de Wynton, spenser (*lixa*) first found Thomas More de Welles, clerk, dead at Whitehalle, by the house of John de Langrishe, in the suburb without south gate. The coroners came and viewed him, and held an inquest by the nearer parishes, viz., St. Michael South, St. Aldate, and St. Edward, by the oath of Will. de Northampton, Roger de Somerton, John Diah, Thomas Botelmaker, John de Thame, John le Bolter, Thomas de Elmendene, Peter le Flechere, Thomas Power, Peter de Bourne, John le Taillour, and John le Bowysere; who say that Geof. Skot, scrivener (*skryweyn*), slew Thomas More de Welles on the Tuesday before at the hour of vespers; with a knife he smote him on the right side and wounded him to the heart, in the high

street, in the parish of St. Mary-the-Virgin, whereof he died; and at once he fled; and the felon had nought in goods that they knew; nor was he in a ward, for he was a clerk. And this befell in south-east ward. And they priced the knife at 2d.; and the bailiffs were ordered to take the felon, if he has been found. Pledges of the finder, Thomas Elmedene and John le Bolter.

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This Whitehall is unknown.

**JOHN HAMOUND; Wednesday, Feb. 23, 1345.**

It came to pass on Wednesday after the feast of St. Peter-in-Cathedra that John Hamound of Wales, being in the prison of the town of Oxford, died in the prison. The coroners came the same day and viewed him there and held an inquest by the four nearer parishes, viz., St. Michael North, St. Mildred, St. Peter-in-the-Bailey, and St. Martin, by the oath of Ric. de Sutton, Will. Felagh, Hugh Mussewyke, Ric. Gorynge, John de Walyngford, Alex. Shether, Will. de London, Rob. le Hafter, John le Hafter, Rob. Gaunt, Rob. Pethynge, Giles le Sporiare; who say that John Hamound died in the prison on Tuesday the feast of St. Peter-in-Cathedra by a natural death, and that he endured no hardship at the hands of the warden or other. They say also that the said John was taken with a porcelain cup (*cipho de murro*), worth 3s., which he had stolen at the house of Nicholas Gerlaund, and was put in prison at the suit of the said Nicholas.

**THOMAS DE BARTON; Friday, Feb. 25, 1345.**

It came to pass on Friday after the feast of St. Matthias that Thomas de Barton died in the high street, in the parish of All Saints. The coroners came the same day and viewed him dead, and held an inquest by the nearer parishes, viz., All Saints', St. Martin's, and St. Mildred's, by the oath of Henry de Goseford, Ric. de Dumyng (*sic*), Geof. de Overton, Ric. Chichely, John Hostiler, John le White, Will. Munt, John Hulle, Stephen de Cornubia, John Spene, John Denchesworth, and Rob. le Tableter; who say that Rob. de Hibernia, clerk, slew Thomas de Barton by night long after curfew; he smote him with a knife to the heart in the high street, in the parish of All Saints', on Thursday, before the said Friday; whereof he died; and at once the felon fled; whither, is not known. And they say that Thomas de Barton had his church rights; therefore he had no finder. They say also that Robert had nought in goods, nor was in a



ward, for he was a clerk. And this befell in south-east ward. And they valued the knife at twopence; and the parish of St. Peter-in-the-Bailey did not come to the inquest. And the bailiffs were commanded to take the felon.

**HENRY DE PETRESBORGHE**; Sunday, April 17, 1345.

It came to pass on Sunday before the feast of St. George that Henry de Petresborghe died in the hall called Stauntonhall, in St. Mary's parish. The coroners came and viewed him there and held an inquest by the four nearer parishes, viz., St. Mary's, All Saints', St. Edward's, and St. Mildred's, by the oath of John Crooc, Adam de Welyngtone, Henry Bagard, Robert Lyndeseye, Roger de Northwode, Geof. le Saucer, John atte Noke, Nic. le Taillur, Adam le Taillur, John Cormeraunt, Thomas le Latoner, and John de Olneye; who say that on Saturday before the said Sunday between midnight and curfew, in the high street, in the said parish, Thomas de Okele, fourbiour, slew the said Henry; he smote him with a knife even to the heart, whereof he died; and at once the felon fled; whither, is not known; for it was at night. And they say that Andrew de Ocle, fourbour, James le Fourbiour, Ingram le Latoner, and John Copyn, bowyer, were aiding at the murder, and that he had his church rights, therefore he had no finder, and that the said felons had nought in goods, but they were in a ward; Andrew de Ocle was in south-east ward; James, Ingram and John Copyn were in north-east ward. And the bailiffs were bidden take the felons; and the knife was priced at threepence; and this befell in south-east ward.

Staunton Hall is the westernmost part of University College.

**ALICE OF LUTON**; Wednesday, April 27, 1345.

It came to pass on Thursday after the feast of St. Mark that Alice, wife of John de Luyton, died in a house called Vynehall, in the parish of St. Peter-in-the-Bailey. The coroners came and viewed her, and held an inquest by the four nearer parishes, viz., St. Peter-in-the-Bailey, St. Martin, St. Ebbe, and St. Michael at the North Gate, by the oath of John le Plomer, Thomas de Horspathe, Walter de Warborghe, Thomas de Stanlake, Will de Gritteworth, Ric. le Taillur, Henry Burgeys, Ric. de Brackle, Will. le Webbe, Hugh le Skynner, John de Tademartone, and Richard de Warborghe; who say that the said Alice died of a tumor on Wednes-

day before that Thursday; and that none other was guilty of her death, and that she had her church rights.

This Vinehall was probably at the corner of St. Ebbe's Street and Castle Street. The name means "house for wine," and until a few years ago it was still a public-house.

**JOHN LE TAILLUR**; Tuesday, May 10, 1345.

It came to pass on Tuesday after the Ascension that Hugh de Henxe, baker, first found John le Taillur, of Cudlyngton, dead in the house of Richard Bate, cobbler, in the parish of St. Thomas'. The coroners came the same day and viewed him there, and held an inquest by the four nearer parishes, viz., St. Thomas', St. Ebbe, St. Aldate, and St. Peter-in-the-Bailey, by the oath of Will de Wormenhale, Ric. Bate, John le Masoun, Rob. le Fishere, Nic. le Curour, John le Taillur, Ric. de Wyghtham, Will. de Taillur, John le Taillur, Alan le Coriour, John de Henxe, and John Pusemer; who say that Will. de Plumpton, "skryveyn," slew John le Taillur on Sunday after the feast of the Ascension, at the hour of curfew, in the king's way, in the said parish; he smote him with a knife in the breast even to the heart; and immediately he fled; whither, is not known; for it was at night. They say also that John de Hernesborghe was aiding at his death. They say also that the felons had nought in goods, nor were they in a ward, for they were clerks. And the bailiffs were bidden take the felons, and they priced the knife at twopence; and this befell in north-west ward. Pledges of the finder are Ric. Bate and John le Masoun.

John, though slain on Sunday, was found on Tuesday. The explanation is that the word "slain" means "received a wound of which he died."

**JOHN DE HAMPTON**; Tuesday, June 14, 1345.

It came to pass on Tuesday after the feast of St. Barnabas that Ric. Crumphorn found John, son of Catherine de Hampton, dead in the high street, in the parish of St. Michael North. The coroners came and viewed him there and held an inquest by the nearer parishes, viz., St. Michael North, St. Martin, and St. Peter-le-Bailey, by the oath of Ric. de Sutton, John le Hafter, John de Lychefeld, Thomas Bugworth, Ric. de Gorynge, John Botele, Will. de London, John de Sheldon, Ric. le Fourbour, Will. le Latoner, John de Lychefeld, and Will. May; who say that Thomas de Flaxeby slew the said John on

Tuesday in the high street in the said parish after curfew; he smote him with a knife in the breast even to the heart, whereof he died. They say also that the felon had nought in goods. And immediately he fled; whither, is not known. The bailiffs were bidden take the felon; and the parish of St. Mildred did not come to the inquest; and they price the knife at threepence; and this befell in north-east ward. Pledges of the finder, Ric. de Sutton and John de Lychefeld.

The record says that the murder was done on Tuesday after dark, and the wording would imply that the inquest was also held on Tuesday. Probably the writer made a mistake.

**ROBERT DE BARTON; Sunday, June 12, 1345.**

It came to pass on Sunday after the feast of St. Barnabas that Robert de Barton died in St. Richard's Hall, in the parish of St. Edward. The same day the coroners viewed him and held an inquest by the four nearer parishes, viz., St. Edward's, All Saints', St. Michael's South, and St. John's, by the oath of Thos. de Gonerwardeby, John Bolter, John Philip, Walter Skynner, Will. atte Chaumbre, Will. de Stratton, Jorn P [ ] atte Chaumbre, John May, Will. Irish, Nic. le Taillur, and John de Thomele; who say that on Tuesday after the feast of Holy Trinity the said Robert by misfortune fell on his knife in the parish of St. Mary Magdalen without north gate, in the king's way, and his knife cut a vein in the calf of the leg under the knee, of which wound he was long sick and died. And he had his church rights. Misfortune.

In 1345 the Tuesday after Trinity Sunday was May 24. St. Richard's Hall was probably south of St. Edward's church, on the west side of St. Edward's street.

**MATHEW; Thursday, July 21, 1345.**

It came to pass on Thursday before the feast of St. Mary Magdalen that John Planterose first found Mathew le Flex . . . dead in the house where the said John dwells in Walton, in the parish of St. Giles. The coroners came the same day and viewed him and held an inquest by the four nearer parishes, viz., St. Giles', St. Thomas', St. Ebbe's, and St. Peter-in-the-Bailey, by the oath of Ric. Pouke, Walter le Leche, John de Fretewelle, John Cistews, John le Chapman, Henry by the strete, John Deverel, John le Bolter, Nic. le Noble, Henry le Baker, John de Caumpedene, and John Pecke;

who say that John Goer, of Wales, slew the said Mathew on Monday after the feast of St. Margaret at Walton, in the king's way, at the hour of curfew; he smote him with a knife in the head whereof he died; and the felon was taken and put in prison; and he had nought in goods, nor was he in a ward, for he was a stranger; and they priced the knife at 1d.; and this befell in north-west ward. Pledges of the finder, Will. Frome and John Cistews.

**JOHN LUFFEWYK; Sunday, Sep. 25, 1345.**

It came to pass on Sunday before the feast of St. Michael that Robert Frome, of Walton, first found John Luffewyk, "skryveyn," dead in the high street in All Saints' parish. The coroners came and viewed him and held an inquest by the nearer parishes, viz., All Saints', St. Mary-the-Virgin, and St. Mildred, by the oath of John Aukeland, John le White, John Philip, John le Cook, Henry Bagard, Thomas de Worton, Walter Skynner, Will. de Ledhale, Rob. de Clanefeld, Ric. de Cumption, John Parmenter, and Hugh le Marshal; who say that William Tydeman slew John Luffewyk on the said Sunday at the hour of curfew; he smote him with a knife on the right side even to the heart, whereof he died; and the felon fled at once; whither, is not known, for it was at night. They say that he had nought in goods, nor was he in a ward, for he was a stranger; and this befell in south-east ward; and they priced the knife at twopenoe; and the parish of St. Edward did not come to the inquest; and the bailiffs were bidden take the felon. Pledges of the finder, John Philip and Will. de Ledhale.

**GEOFFREY WENDLYNG; Wednesday, Dec. 23, 1345.**

It came to pass on Wednesday after Christmas Day that Geoffrey Wendlyng died in a hall called Bekhall, in the suburb of Grandpont. The coroners came and viewed him and held an inquest by the four nearer parishes, viz., St. Michael South, St. Edward, St. Aldate, and St. Ebbe, by the oath of Thos. de Curtlyngton, Peter de Eli, John de Danchesworth, John atte Dich, Henry Coupere, Rob. de Yiftele, John de Ellesfeld, Rob. atte Chaumbre, Will. le Bolter, Will. Skynner, John Hales, and Adam le Plomer; who say that one whose name they know not smote Geoffrey Wendlyng with a knife in the breast after curfew on Saturday, Christmas-eve, without south gate by Trillemulle; whereof he died. And at once he fled; whither is not known, for it was at night. And this befell in

south-east ward. And he had his church rights. And they priced the knife at twopence.

Rekhal is now 14, St. Aldate's. The exact situation of Trill Mill is a little uncertain; perhaps it was in Christ Church Meadow at the back of Rekhal; but the stream which passed under the road between 9 and 10, St. Aldate's was sometimes called Trill Mill for brevity.

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ROLL OF WILL. DE WHATTELE and RIO. DE EYNESHAM, from Jan. 25, 20 Ed. III., to Jan. 25 in the next year.

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WALTER DE WARWICK; Jan. 28, 1346.

It came to pass on Saturday after the conversion of St. Paul, in the 20th year of Edward III., that John Berd, junior, first found Walter de Warewyk dead in the parish of St. Mary in Cattetstret. The coroners came and view him, and held an inquest by the nearer parishes, viz., St. Mary, All Saints, St. Peter-in-the-East, St. Mildred, by the oath of Nic. Gerlaund, John le Latoner, John Cormeraunt, Henry Bagard, John Crook, John Clyve, Adam de Welynton, Nic. le Taillur, Thos. del Unicornhalle, Thos. le Latoner, Nic. de Gletton, and Roger Piroun, who say that Walter de Warewick lodged in no house on the night of the Friday before the said Saturday, but lay in Cattetstret, and died of the cold; and none was to blame for his death. Pledges of the finder, Robert de Lynde . . . , and Peter le Fleochere.

Misfortune.

Records of this kind make us doubt whether the "good old times" were so very good, and whether "merry England" was a merry place for one who was penniless on a winter's night.

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WILLIAM GAMELYN; Thursday, March 30, 1348.

It came to pass on Thursday after the feast of the Annunciation that Joce Cacheknyte first found Will. Gamelyn dead in St. Stephen's Hall in St. John's parish. The coroners came and viewed him and held an inquest by the nearer parishes, viz., St. John's, St. Peter's-in-the-East, and St. Mary's, by the oath of Rob. de York, Roger de Swyneford, Roger de Newentone, Ric. Excestre, John de Irland, Will. de Walton, Will. le Taillur, Thos. de Couele, Roger Wyth, John de Botele skynners, John de Hullynton, and John de Horspath; who say that John Clayli slew Walter Gamelyn on Wednes-

day after the feast of the Annunciation at the hour of curfew; he shot him with an arrow in the belly in the king's way in the said parish, whereof he died; and this befell in south-east ward. They say also that the felon had nought in goods, nor was he in a ward, being a clerk. And the bailiffs were bidden take the felon, if he be found. And the parish of All Saints did not come to the inquest; and they priced the bow and arrow at sixpence. Pledges of the finder, Nic. Brayles and Nic. Glatton.

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JOHN DE STAUNTON; Tuesday, April 4, 1346.

It came to pass on Tuesday, the feast of St. Ambrose, that Will. Russel first found John de Staunton, of Leicester, dead in Cattetstret in the parish of St. Mary. The coroners came and viewed him, and held an inquest by the four nearer parishes, viz., St. Mary's, All Saints, St. Mildred's, and St. Peter's-in-the-East, by the oath of John le Skynners, John de Saundene, Thos. de Hedyndone, Ric. le Skynners, John Brayles, Nic. de Kelmesham, John de Dadyntone, John de Cornubia, John de Hampton, Waryn le Taillur, Ric. le Soutere, and John de Coventre, who say that John Berd junior slew John de Staunton on the said Tuesday; he smote him in the throat with a knife when it was late (*in sero*) in the street and parish aforesaid, whereof he died; and at once the felon fled; whither is not known; and he had nought in goods, but he was in north-east ward; and the bailiffs were bidden taken him; and they priced the knife at twopence. Pledges of the finder, John Saundene and John Latoner.

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HENRY WYNNE; Sunday, May 7, 1348.

It came to pass on Sunday after the feast of St. John before the Latin Gate, that Henry Wynne found Thomas Payn, writer, dead in the parish of St. Peter-in-the-East, in the king's way, over against Hert hall. The coroners came and viewed him there and held an inquest by the four nearer parishes, viz., St. Peter-in-the-East, St. John, St. Mary, and All Saints, by the oath of Nic. de Brayles, Steph. le Mareschal, Thos. de Wormenhale, John de Hedyndone, Paskes le Taillur, John de Abyndone, Stephen de Cornubia, John de Brayles, Rob. le Taillur, John le Spicer, Ric. de Merston, and John de Mustertone; who say that Will. le Cook dil Glasenhalle slew Thomas Payn; he smote him with a knife on the left side even to the heart on Saturday before the said Sunday after curfew; and at once he fled; whither, is not known, for it was at night; and he had nought in goods, nor was he

in a ward, being a servant of clerks. And the bailiffs were bidden take the felon; and this befell in north-east ward; and they priced the knife at one penny. Pledges, John Brayles and John de Chestertone.

Hert Hall is the old part of Hertford College, at the N.E. corner. One Glasenhall was in School Street near S. Mary's Church; another was in St. Edward's parish.

**PHILIP MANCIPLE; Saturday, June 17, 1346.**

It came to pass on Saturday after the feast of Corpus Cristi that Henry de Wodesdone first found Philip Manciple dead in St. Peter's Hall, in St. Mildred's parish. The coroners came and viewed him dead and held an inquest by the nearer parishes, viz., St. Mildred's, All Saints', St. Mary's, by the oath of Rob. Milkeham, John Sperauk, John de Worton, John le Taillur, Geof. le Belleyster, Will le Taillur, Will. Russel, Thos. le Taillur, John le Lokiere, John de Thumale, John de Oudyntone, and John le Skynner, who say that Rob. de Frodeham slew Philip Manciple on Friday before the said Saturday in the said hall; he smote him with a knife even to the heart about midnight, and at once fled, whither is not known, for it was at night; and he had nought in goods, nor was he in a ward, being a clerk; and this befell in north-east ward; and the bailiffs were bidden take the felon; and they priced the knife at twopence; and the parish of St. Edward did not come to the inquest. Pledges of the finder, Rob. Petlyng and Ric. Tyeys.

St. Peter's Hall was at the S.W. corner of Exeter College.

**JOHN DE OKELE; Saturday, June 17, 1346.**

It came to pass on Saturday after the feast of Corpus Christi that Robert Blik, of Abyndone, first found John de Okele dead in the high street in the parish of St. Michael North. The coroners came and viewed him there and held an inquest by the four nearer parishes, viz., St. Michael North, St. Peter-in-the-Bailey, St. Martin, and St. Mildred, by the oath of Walter de Watford, John le Fourbour, John de Bamptone, John de Sheldone, Will. le Peyntour, Will. Felawe, Rob. Petlyng, Ric. Tyeys, Rob. de Lichefeld, Rob. Coriour, Rob. atte Hurste, Rob. Thepuswyke; who say that Andrew, son of Thomas le Gay, slew John de Okele at the hour of vespers on the said day, in the said street and parish; he

smote him with a knife in the throat, and Gilbert le Gay was aiding at the murder. About goods they knew nothing. They were not in a ward, for they were strangers; and this befell in north-east ward; and the bailiffs were bidden take the felons; and they priced the knife at twopence. Security was taken of the nearest neighbours, viz., Ric. de Sutton and John Ouremaster. William Felawe and John Waget were security for Ric. de Sutton; Will. le Irmongere and John de Walyngford for John Ouremaster. Pledges of the finder, John de Worton and John Sperauk.

As there might be suspicion that those in the nearest houses were accomplices in the murder, security was taken that they should appear, if necessary, when the judges came on circuit.

**JOHN FUNKE; Monday, July 10, 1346.**

It came to pass on Monday after the feast of the translation of St. Thomas the Martyr, that Will. le Patter first found John Funke, of Etone, dead in a cess-pit (sterkulinio), within the close and abode of the abbot of Oseneye. The coroners came and viewed him dead and held an inquest by the four nearer parishes, viz., St. Thomas, St. Ebbe, St. Aldate, and St. Peter-le-Bailey, by the oath of Ric. de Witteneye, Michael Pille, Henry Bourne, Nic. le Taillur, John Bulmunt, Rob. de Bannebury, John Lompe, Reginald Tasker, Gilbert de Hampton, John Deye, Will. Sawyere, and John Lok; who say that John Funke on the Sunday before that Monday was lying sick in bed, and about midnight he rose, for he was as it were mad, and for want of guarding he went forth from the house and fell in that cess-pit and was drowned. Pledges of the finder, Michael Pille and John le Deye.

**JOHN DE SALESBURY; Thursday, July 13, 1346.**

It came to pass on Thursday before the feast of the Translation of St. Thomas-the-Martyr that Hamundus de Paris first found John de Salesbury in the Thames by the abode of the Preaching Friars. The coroners came and viewed him there, and held an inquest by the four nearer parishes, viz., St. Michael South, St. Aldate, St. Ebbe, and St. Peter-in-the-Bailey, by the oath of Will. de Clondesdale, John le Bolter, John de Tame, Walter le Baker, John Dick, John de Bunseye, Henry Tabard, Henry le Coupere, Thomas Elmendene, John le Yonge, John Keche, and Will. le Bowyar; who say that John de Salesbury on Wednesday bathed in the

Thames and was drowned. Pledges of the finder, Walter le Baker and John Keche.

The Thames was the boundary of the Preaching Friars on their west and south sides.

**JOHN DE CORNUBIA; Monday, July 17, 1346.**

It came to pass on Monday before the feast of St. Margaret that Moricinus Williames first found John de Cornubia, glover, dead in the high street in St. Martin's. The coroners came and viewed him there and held an inquest by the four nearer parishes, viz., St. Martin's, All Saints', St. Michael's North, and St. Peter's-in-the-Bailey, by the oath of John de Rudesdone, Rob. de Clansfeld, Ric. de Ouyng, Will. Gilham, John de Coventre, John Dros, Rob. le Tableter, Thos. Chichely, John Neweport, Will. de Dene, John Munt, and Will. de Cloudesdale; who say that Robert de Lincoln slew the said John on that day at the hour of vespers in the street and parish aforesaid; he smote him with a knife even to the heart. They say also that he had nought in goods and was not in a ward, for he was a stranger; and he fled at once to the church of St. Martin; and this befell in south-east ward. And they priced the knife at a penny. Pledges of the finder, Will. de Dene and John Munt.

**AN ABJURATION BY ROBERT DE LINCOLN; Friday, July 28, 1346.**

It came to pass on Monday before the feast of St. Margaret that Robert de Lincoln, felon, fled to the church of St. Martin because of the felony that he had committed in slaying John de Cornubia. The coroners came on that Monday and viewed the said Robert there and asked of him for what cause he fled to that church and kept therein; and there before the coroners he recognised that on the said Monday he slew John de Cornubia feloniously with a knife. The coroners asked him to render himself to the peace of the king, but he said he would not; wherefore the bailiffs were bidden keep good watch lest he escape. Also on Friday after the feast of St. James the apostle the coroners came and asked him to render himself to the peace of the king, but he said he would not, and in their presence he abjured the realm; and he received the cross, and his port was assigned him at Southampton.

When a felon remained in a church for eleven days, one wonders where he slept or had his meals. The cross was the emblem he carried in his hand

to show that he was a felon abjuring the realm, and might not be injured on his way to the coast.

**JOHN DE SOUTHAM; Tuesday, Aug. 1, 1346.**

It came to pass on Tuesday the feast of St. Peter ad Vincula that John de Southam, of the county of Grauntebrigge, a prisoner in the town prison, died there. The coroners came and viewed him there and held an inquest by the four nearer parishes, viz., St. Michael North, St. Martin, St. Peter-le-Bailey, and St. Mildred, by the oath of Rob. le Irmongere, Ric. de Sutton, Ric. Goryng, Rob. le Spurier, John de Eynesham, sadeler, Rob. de Witteneye, John de Rypoun, Rob. de Petlyng, Rob. le Cutiler, Rob. de Lichefeld, Will. de London, and John de Coventre; who say that John de Southam was imprisoned at the suit of Thomas Edmund, of Thame, by virtue of a statute of merchants, and was long sick of diverse diseases in the prison, and so died by a natural death, and that he endured no hardship at the hands of the keeper of the prison or other, and that he had his church rights. They say also that he died on the Monday.

Grauntebrigge is now called Cambridge.

**NICHOLAS DE HARLESTONE; Friday, August 18, 1346.**

It came to pass on Friday after the feast of the Assumption that Thos. de Lynord first found Nic. de Harlestone dead in a chamber at Brodeyates, in St. John's parish, opposite Merton hall. The coroners came and viewed him dead there, and held an inquest by the four nearer parishes, to wit, St. John, St. Peter-in-the-East, St. Mary, and St. Edward, by the oath of Walter le Deqhere, Ric. le Cook, John de Shipton, Thos. de Hedyndon, Roger de Swyneford, Edmund de Bermyngham, John Fothot, Ric. de Cornubia, John de Wynchecombe, Thos. le Irish, Ric. le Taillour, and Reginald le Skynner; who say that Nic. de Harlestone on Thursday before the said Friday after dinner climbed into a tree which stands within the walls of the churchyard of the church of Merton hall, and stood on a bough, and he lost his footing, and by misfortune fell beyond the wall in the king's way, and so broke his neck. And they priced the bough at 6d.; pledges of the finder, John le Peyntour, Will. de Lughteborgh.

If he broke his neck we presume that he died on the spot. How then was it that he was found dead in Brodeyates? Somebody must have carried the

body there. Wood is not aware of any Broadgates Hall in St. John's parish; perhaps it was a part of what was subsequently Porcionists Hall.

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**WALTER LE PARMENTER; Monday, Aug. 23, 1346.**

It came to pass on Monday before the feast of the Beheading of St. John Baptist that Henry de Weston first found Walter le Parmenter dead in the high street in the parish of St. Mary. The coroners came and viewed him and held an inquest by the nearer parishes, viz., St. Mary, St. Edward, and St. Peter-in-the-East, by the oath of John Clyve, John Cormeraunt, Steph. le Mareschal, Will. de Bergeveny, Will. Brown, John le Taillour, John de Hedyndon, Hen. le Taillour, Ric. de Cornubia, Rob. atte Chaumbre, Rob. de Lyndeseye, and Will. atte Chaumbre; who say that Stephen Browns, parmenter, of Winchester, slew Walter le Parmenter on Sunday in the high street at the hour of curfew; he smote him with a knife on the left side even to the heart. They say also that Will. Kyrham was aiding at the death; and this befell in south-east ward. They say that the felons had no goods, but were in north-east ward; they fled at once; whither, is not known, for it was at night. And they priced the knife at twopence. And the parish of All Saints did not come to the inquest. And the bailiffs were bidden take the felons. Pledges of the finder, John Cormeraunt and Steph. le Mareschal.

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**HENRY DE STODLEY; Thursday, Sept. 23, 1346.**

It came to pass on Thursday before the feast of St. Michael that Will. Russel, sawier, first found Henry de Stodleghe dead in his house in the parish of St. Peter-le-Bailey. The coroners viewed him there, and held an inquest by the four nearer parishes, viz., St. Peter-in-the-Bailey, St. Martin, St. Ebbe, and St. Aldate, by the oath of John de Falle, Walter le Deghere, Ric. le Cok, Gilbert de Shipton, John Mymecan, Will. le White, Thos. de Leghe, Phil. de Bathe, Thos. de Gonewardby, John de Bampton, Edward le Goldsmyth, and Will. de Cloudesdale; who say that on Wednesday Henry de Stodleghe was sitting in his hall after dinner with a naked knife in his hand, and he began to go to his chamber, and when he entered his chamber he stumbled, for he was drunk, and fell on his knife by misfortune, and the knife entered his neck and cut his throat, whereof he died. And they say that he had no memory, but was as it were mad. And

they priced the knife at fourpence. Pledges of the finder, John de Bathe and Will de Cloudesdale.

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Probably this is the Henry de Stodley who was mayor from Michaelmas, 1344, to Michaelmas, 1345. His daughter, who seems to have been his heir, died in 1349, leaving her house in St. Peter-le-Bailey parish to Margaret Pirye. (See Book of Wills, page 49).

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**WILLIAM LE TAILLOUR; Friday, Nov. 3, 1346.**

It came to pass on Friday after the feast of All Saints that John Roger of Walton first found Will. le Taillour of Devon dead in a seld without east gate in the parish of St. Peter-in-the-East. The coroners came and viewed him dead and held an inquest by the four nearer parishes of St. Peter-in-the-East, St. Mary, St. John, and St. Edward, by the oath of Peter le Shereman, Will. le Bowiere, John de Staunton, John le Mareschal, Thos. de Wormenhale, Will. de Mustertone, Walter de Lyndeseye, Rob. de Notyngnam, Phil. le Taillour, Will. le Flechchere, Thos. le Webbe, and John le Bowiere; who say that Alan le Gardiner, of the house of St. John, slew Will. le Taillour on Thursday in the king's way in the said parish; he smote him in the neck with a knife, and fled at once, whither is not known, for it was at night. They say also that he had no goods, but was in north-east ward. And they priced the knife at twopence. And the bailiffs were bidden take the felon. Pledges of the finder, John le Mareschal, Peter le Shereman.

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The house of St. John means the Hospital of St. John at the East Gate.

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**JOHN DE WYNTRYNGHAM; Tuesday, Dec. 5, 1346.**

It came to pass on Tuesday before the feast of St. Nicholas that John de Wyntryngnam died at Glashenhalle, in the parish of St. Edward. The coroners came and viewed him, and held an inquest from the nearer parishes, viz., St. Edward's, St. Mary's, and All Saints, by the oath of John de Swanebourne, John [ ]rence, Rob. atte Chaumbre, John le Taillour, John de Bureford, Will. le Irish, John le Smyth, Ralf Wylot, [ ] le Parmenter, Will. de Wyncheccombe, Symon de Caumpedene, and Thos. le Webbe; who say that John de Wyntryngnam, as he wished to enter the door of the said hall, had a naked knife in his hand, and he fell on the knife by night, and the knife entered

his body on the left side; and afterwards he died of the wound on Saturday before the said Tuesday, and he had his church rights, and they priced the knife at twopence; and the parish of St. Michael South did not come to the inquest.

This Glasenhalle in St. Edward's parish belonged to Oseney. It was on the east side of St. Edward's street, now about the middle of the buildings on the west side of Peckwater Quad.

**WILLIAM DE BLEBURY** Saturday, Dec. 16, 1346.

It came to pass on Saturday after the feast of St. Lucy that Will de Leycestre found Will de Blebury dead in the high street in St. Martin's. The coroners came and saw him dead and held an inquest by the four nearer parishes, viz., St. Martin, St. Peter-le-Bailey, St. Michael North, and All Saints, by the oath of Nic. de Pebblesbury, John Carru, John de Coventre, Will. de Tiwe, Gilb. le Sadeler, Rob. le Sporiere, John de Eynesam, sadeler, Roger de Lynorde, John de Redyng, Ric. de Hauvyle, Ric. le Shereman, and Will. Bettes; who say that Eymor Samby and Bartram Samby slew Will. de Blebury on the said Saturday at the ninth hour in the high street; they smote him with knives and wounded him in diverse parts of the body, whereof he died at once; they say also that they had nought in goods and were not in a ward, being clerks. And they priced the knives at sixpence; and this befell in south-east ward. Pledges of the finder, Rob. le Sporiere and Will. Felawe.

"The ninth hour" is always ambiguous; it might also be translated "noon." Perhaps "hour" would be omitted, if noon was meant.

**ROLL OF WILL. DE WHATELE and RIC. DE EYNESHAM**, from Jan. 25 in the 21st year of Edward III. to the same day in the next year.

**ALEXANDER OF BEGBROKE**; Feb. 15, 1347.

It came to pass on Thursday the morrow of St. Valentine that Alex. de Bekebrok died, a prisoner in the Castle prison, who had been arrested by means of an inquest before John Uphay, steward of Richard Damory, which said that he had been caught on Wednesday after the feast of St. Clement, 20 Ed. III., at Herdwyk, with four sheep, value 4s., stolen from the fold of Philip de Herdwyk. The coroners came and held an inquest by the four nearer parishes by the oath of Ric. de Walyngford, Will. le

White, Thos. de Worton, Will de Wormenhale, Phil. de Bathe, John le White, Rob. de Grymale, Thos. de Leghe, Thos. Was, John de Ichyntone, Hen. le Longe, and Geof. de Hedyndon, who say that the said Alexander died a natural death and not by the hardship of the warden of the prison. And they say that he had no goods or chattels, and that he had his church rights.

**HENRY LE MASON**; April 10, 1347.

It came to pass on Tuesday after the feast of St. Ambrose that Robert Blik of Abyndon first found Ric. le Masoun de Newton dead within the abode and priory of the house of St. Frideswide. The coroners came the same day and viewed him and held an inquest by the four nearer parishes, viz., St. Michael South, St. Aldate, St. Ebbe, and St. Edward, by the oath of Nic. Trewelove, Henry Kep-harm, Geof. Scot, Will. de Cloudesdale, John le Bolter, Walter le Hosyer, Peter de Bourne, Rob. de Manefeld, Adam le Taillour, Walter le Flechchere, John de Ellesfeld, and Thomas Power, who say that the said Richard dug under a wall in the priory on the said Tuesday and a piece of the wall fell on his head, whereby it was broken, and he died at once, and they priced the piece of wall at sixpence; and this befell in south-east ward. Pledges of the finder, Geof. Scot and Will. Cloudesdale.

**ADAM LE PLOMER**; Friday, July 20, 1347.

It came to pass on Friday the feast of St. Margaret that Adam le Plomer died in the house where he dwelt in St. Ebbe's parish. The coroners came and viewed him and held an inquest by the four nearer parishes, viz., St. Ebbe's, St. Aldate's, St. Michael's South, and St. Peter-in-the-Bailey, by the oath of Roger de Whitewell, John Holond, John le Plomer, Nic. Trewelove, Rob. Clyve, John Dick, John le Bolter, Adam le Cook, John de Thame, Ric. Daper (*sic*), Henry Kepcharm, and Ric. le Taillour, who say that on Tuesday before the said Friday, about the third hour, Adam stood on a decayed timber to mend a gutter at the house of St. John without the east gate, and the timber broke beneath him and he fell to the earth on his head whereby it was broken. And so he died of it afterwards. And they priced the wood at twopence; and he had his church rights; and this befell in south-west ward.

The accident occurred in the north-east ward, but the death in the south-west ward.

**ROBERT STRETE**; Saturday, May 5, 1347.

It came to pass on Saturday after the feast of the

Finding of Holy Cross that Will. de Gloucestre first found Robert Strete, writer, dead in Oxford on Grauntpoint in a chamber of a hall called Plomer-hall. The coroners came the same day and viewed him, and held an inquest by the four nearer parishes, viz., St. Michael South, St. Aldate, St. Ebbe, and St. Edward, by the oath of Will. Brown, Adam Cook, Walter le Taillour, John Bawdewyn, Thos. de Trillemulle, John Dick, Thomas E[ ], Thomas Power, Walter le Flechhere, John le Taillour, Will. le Skynner, and Henry Tabard; who say that John Sharp slew Robert Strete; he smote him with a knife on the head on Saturday after curfew in the said chamber; and the felon fled; whither is not known, for it was at night. They say that he had nought in goods, and they priced the knife at twopence, and this befell in south-east ward. Pledges of the finder, Thomas Bawdewyn and Thomas Power.

Plomer Hall was on the east side of Grandpont, somewhere between 20 and 27, St. Aldate's.

**RICHARD LE SPICER**; Sunday, Dec. 30, 1347.

It came to pass on Monday after Christmas Day that Will. le Wallissh first found Ric. le Spicer dead in the high street in Grantpont. The coroner viewed him that day and held an inquest by the nearer parishes, viz., St. Michael South, St. Aldate, and St. Edward, by the oath of Hugh de Yiftale, Roger Whitewell, Geof. de Evesham, John Dick, Will. le White, John de Bury, Ric. le Fuller, John Dros, Walter de Hornicote, Gilb. de Bristol, Thos. de Elmendene, and Thos. Trillemulle; who say that John Gnewyth, of Cornmall, smote the said Richard with a knife in the breast even to the heart on Sunday about curfew, and fled, whither is not known, for it was at night; and he had no goods; and they priced the knife at 3d.; and this befell in south-west ward, and the bailiffs were bidden take the felon; and the parish of St. Edward did not come to the inquest. Pledges of the finder, Richard le Fuller and Thos. de Elmenden.

**WILLIAM CLARISSE OF SOULDERN**; Tuesday, Jan. 8, 1348.

It came to pass on Tuesday after the Epiphany that Will. Clarisse, of Suthorne, a prisoner in the Castle prison, died there. The coroners came the same day and held an inquest by the four nearer parishes, viz., St. Thomas, St. Peter-in-the-Bailey, St. Ebbe, and St. Aldate, by the oath of Gilb. de Shipton, Thos. de Stanlaye, Will. White, Thos. de

Hompashe, Will. de Weston, Will. de Gruttheworth, David Elys, Will. le Sumpter, Hen. de Bunsyngton, Will. de Clyfton, John atte Brugge, and John le Courter; who say that Will. Clarisse died a natural death; and that he had no goods; and that he had his church rights.

**THOMAS CHA**; Friday, Jan. 18, 1348.

It came to pass on Friday after St. Hillary that Thomas Cha, of Oxford, a prisoner in the king's prison of the town of Oxford, died there. The coroners came the same day and held an inquest by the four nearer parishes, viz., St. Michael North, St. Mildred, St. Peter-in-the-Bailey, and St. Martin, by the oath of John de Bampton, Ric. de Sutton, Will. Felawe, Rob. le Sporier, Giles le Sporier, Roger le Peutere, Will. May, Hugh Purser, John de Worton, Will. de London, John le Latoner, and Thomas Taillour, who say that the said Thomas was in prison at the suit of Hen. de Yiftale, by a statute of merchanta, and was long sick in the prison, and so died a natural death, and not by the harshness of the warden of the prison, and that he had his church rights.

This is the end of Coroners' Roll, 129.

We now begin Coroner's Roll 133, which gives the inquests not for the town of Oxford, but for Northgate Hundred, a district consisting of the parishes of St. Mary Magdalen and St. Giles and part of the parish of St. Thomas.

**ROLL OF THOMAS HOUKYN AND RICHARD DE ADYNTON**, king's coroners of the hundred without Northgate from May 10, in the 61st year of Edward III. (1377), to the Thursday after the Assumption of St. Mary, 1 Ric. II. (Aug. 20, 1377). **STEPHEN COCHAM**; Thursday, May 21, 1377.

It came to pass on Friday after the feast of St. Dunstan, 51 Ed. III., that Stephen Cocham of Ireland, servant of John le Noble, was found dead in a cellar within the tenement of the said John le Noble, in the parish of St. Mary Magdalen. The coroners came the same day and viewed him and held an inquest from the nearer parishes and districts, viz., the parishes of St. Giles and St. Mary Magdalen and the districts of Walton and Stokwell-strete by the oath of John Grettone, Reginald Westover, John Buoke, William Cressale, Ric. Borghe, Edmund Grey, Ric. Fulke, Will. Whelere, Ric. Oxenford, Will. Wedestoke, Michael Smyth, and John Feaheral; who say upon their oath that on Thurs-



day last about the hour of curfew Stephen made an assault on John Noble, his master, in the hall of the said John, which was built above that cellar, and Stephen drew a knife called a baselard, wishing to smite John Noble; and John took Stephen's knife in his hand; and so they struggled and fell from step to step from the said hall down to the ground, and as he fell Stephen struck himself with his knife on the right flank and so slew himself. They priced the knife at three-halfpence. They say that none other was guilty of his death. He had nought in goods but he had his church rights.

In the margin is "John Noble, felon."

This marginal note does not mean that John Noble was subsequently convicted of felony, but that he would have to stand his trial for felony when the itinerant judges came to Oxford.

**ROLL OF THOMAS HOUKYN AND RICHARD DE ADYNTONE**, coroners of Northgate hundred, from July 23, 1 Ric. II., to Tuesday in Easter week, 5 Ric. II. (i.e., July 23, 1377, to April 8, 1382).

**WILLIAM BASSET**; Wednesday, Aug. 19, 1377.

It came to pass on Thursday after the Assumption of St. Mary, 1 Ric. II., that John Lucas, solatere, found William son of Richard Basset, solatere, of the age of 1½ years, dead in the house of Richard de Adynton, in the parish of St. Giles. Thomas Houkyn came the same day and viewed him and held an inquest from the parishes of St. Giles and St. Mary Magdalen and the districts of Walton and Stokwelle-strete, by the oath of John Grette, Will. Cressall, Rob. Deye, John Bucke, Ric. Fulke, John Facherelle, Will. Chiselhamptone, Walter Bon, Michael Smyth, John Noble, John Beknesfelde, and Will. Taillour; who say upon their oath that on Wednesday after the Assumption of St. Mary, 1 Ric. II., at the hour of vespers, the said William son of Richard was playing around the well of Richard de Adyntone in his close, and looked in the well and fell therein, and so was drowned. And precept was made to Richard Adynton to fill up the well. Pledges of the finder Will. Cressall and John Bucke.

Here, again, as in an inquest of the year 1344, a well which has been the cause of a death is to be filled up.

**THOMAS SKYNNERE**; Wednesday, Mar. 17, 1378.

It came to pass on Wednesday after the feast of

St. Gregory, 1 Ric. II., that Thomas Skynners, of Burford, a prisoner, was found dead in the Castle prison. Thomas Houkyn, coroner of Northgate Hundred, came and viewed him and held an inquest by the nearer parishes of St. Thomas, St. Peter-in-the-Bailey, St. Ebbe, and St. Mary Magdalen, by the oath of Will. Cressall, John Bucke, Will. Chiselhamptone, Will. Baker, Hen. Taylour, Maurice Taylour, Thomas Chelmarke, Will. Sibbeford, Walter Hondescombe, Thomas Hunte, John Sydenham, and John Milward; who say that Thomas Skynners had a disease called the flux of blood, of which disease he sickened for three weeks, and on the said Wednesday died about the first hour by a natural death; and they say that he endured no hardship from the warden of the prison.

**WILLIAM WYSMORE**; Sunday, Mar. 23, 1382.

It came to pass on Monday before the feast of the Annunciation of St. Mary, 5 Ric. II., that William Wysmore, clerk, was found dead in the high street by "le Elmes," in the parish of St. Giles, when Richard Bruns was sheriff. The coroners viewed him, and he had a wound through his middle. An inquest was held by the parishes of St. Giles and St. Mary Magdalen, and by the tithing of the abbot of Oseney and the village of Walton of the abbess of Godstow, who say that on Sunday last John Styward, clerk, of Wyche, in the county of Chester, as they were walking towards the field, when words of contumely arose, drew his knife and smote William and slew him, whereof he died forthwith. There was no finder, for he had his church rights. The felon fled, whither is not known, nor could it be discovered. Therefore let him be attached.

Richard Bruns, of Harwell, was sheriff from Nov., 1381, to Nov., 1382. The abbot of Oseney had a holding in Walton St. called Twenty-acre, where he had a manorial court. It may be asked what is the difference between a "tithing" and a village or villata? Probably a village was an agricultural entity, with its own open fields and common pasture; a tithing might be something less. Godstow had a manor in Walton.

**RICHARD DE ADYNTON**; Wed., April 9, 1382.

It came to pass on Thursday in Easter week, viz., April 10, 5 Ric. II., that Hoggemon Carter, of Ramsbury, found Richard de Adynton, of the parish of St. Giles, dead in Northam by Beaumont. Thomas

Houkyn came and viewed him and held an inquest from the parishes of St. Giles and St. Mary Magdalen and the districts of Walton and Stokewelle-strete, by the oath of Will. Crassale, Reginald Westovere, Michael Smyth, Thos. Cowley, mason, Adam Smyth, John Fachereall, Thos. Warner, John Stompe, John Meddebourn, Ric. Fulke, Ric. Basseth, and Ric. Waterman, who say that Ric. Adyngton on Wednesday, the day before, after dinner, was walking and holding his plough in the said field; and suddenly he fell, and a tumour burst in his belly, whereof he died at once; and that none was aiding at his death. Pledges of the finder, Thomas Cowell and John Facherealle.

ROLL OF THOMAS HOUKYN, coroner of Northgate Hundred, from the feast of St. Mark the evangelist, 5 Ric. II. (Ap. 25, 1382).

WILLIAM SCRYM; Tuesday, June 3, 1382.

It came to pass on Tuesday after the feast of Holy Trinity that William Scrym was found dead in the house of Thomas Mason, in the parish of St. Mary Magdalen. Thomas Houkyn came and viewed him the same day and held an inquest by the parishes of St. Giles and St. Mary Magdalen and the districts of Walton and Stokwel-strete, by the oath of Will. Crassale, Rob. Wettlyngtone, Will. Wodestoke, Ric. Basseth, Ric. de Norton, Michael Smyth, John Warner, Thomas Mason, Will. Lokyere, Edmund Graye, Will. Qweler, and John Huncche; who say that on the Friday last William Scrym was climbing a tree in the close of Bayhollehalle to reach and overthrow a nest of magpies, and so by chance his foot slipped, and he fell to the ground and sickened from that day until the Tuesday; and so he died.

Balliol College was at that time confined to what is now the front quadrangle. The "close" means the garden behind the college, enclosed by a wall; for the buildings were not then in the form of a quadrangle. This inquest shows how tame birds were before the days of firearms: no magpies would now build within 50 yards of the Broad.

GEOFFREY BRUYS; Sunday, July 13, 1382.

It came to pass on Monday before the feast of St. Margaret, 6 Ric. II., that John Dauber found Geoffrey Bruys, carter of William Codesshale, of Oxford, dead upon land of the abbot of Oseney towards Godstow upon Withwellehalle, opposite Bro-manuswelle in Walton. Thomas Hokyn came and held an inquest by the parishes of St. Giles and St.

Mary Magdalen and the districts of Walton and Stokwelle-strete by the oath of Ric. de Burghe, Will. de Wodestoke, Michael Smyth, Adam Taylour, Ric. Waterman, Thomas Fulke, John Hayne, John Martyn, Rob. Roume, Rob. Hewey, John Kerver, and Henry Dauber; who say that one John Stafford, hayward of the abbess of Godstow, on Sunday last at night met and would have arrested the said Geoffrey in Walton field on suspicion of robbery; to which arrest Geoffrey would not stand, but assaulted John and smote him with a staff; and John to save his own life draw a baslard, worth 4d., and smote Geoffrey on the front of his head even to the brain; and they say that John had nought in goods, and that none was aiding at his death; and John Langford, bailiff of the hundred, will answer for the price of the baslard. Pledges of the finder Henry Dauber and John Kerver.

HENRY FRYEIS, Carmelite; Sunday, July 5, 1383.

It came to pass on Tuesday, the feast of the Translation of St. Thomas, martyr, 7 Ric. II., that brother Henry Fryeis, of the Carmelite Friars, was found dead in Holywell field. Thomas Hokyn came and viewed him and held an inquest by the parishes of St. Peter-in-the-East, Holywell, and St. Mary Magdalen and the district of Walton, by the oath of John Attewode, John Walger, John Fong', William Dred, Ric. Parchemyner, Thos. Parchymyner, Thos. Plummer, Edward Parchymyner, Will. Frenche, John Facherele, John Yryschre, and Ric. Webbe; who say that brother Henry on Sunday last after dinner went to bathe in the Charewelle, and in bathing fell into a pool and so was drowned, and certain clerks unknown drew him from the water by night, and John Nichol first found him in the field. Pledges of the finder John Attewode, John Fong'.

The inquest illustrates the inconvenience of being "first-finder." The clerks, to escape this, left the body in the field, to be found by someone else.

RICHARD PREST; Wednesday, Oct. 5, 1384.

It came to pass on Thursday the feast of St. Faith, 8 Ric. II., that Richard Prest, of Coventry, a prisoner in the Castle Prison, was found dead there. Thomas Hokyn came and viewed him and held an inquest by the parishes of St. Thomas, St. Peter-in-the-Bailey, St. Ebbe, and St. Mary Magdalen, by the oath of Thomas Whitale, Ric. Clarke, Maurice Taylour, Henry Taylour, John Wellys, Geoffrey Fuller, Thomas Hunte, Thomas Chilmark,

Rob. Flommer, Will. Gherman, Thomas Clerk, Thomas Harrye; who say that on Wednesday about the hour of compline Ric. Prest died of the pestilence, and they say that he endured no hardship from the warden of the prison to hasten his death.

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In the margin, Pestilence.

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**RICHARD NEWTONE**; Thursday, Dec. 28, 1387.

It came to pass on Thursday, the feast of St. Stephen, 2 Richard II., that Richard Newtone, carter of the abbot of Oseney, was found dead in a cottage of the abbot of Rewley near the abbey of Rewley. Thomas Hokyn came the same day and viewed him, and held an inquest by the parishes of St. Thomas, St. Mary Magdalen, and St. Giles, by the oath of Ric. Clerk, John Horchard, John Wellys, John Bartholomew, Will' Walton, Henry Mason, Will' Stuardesman, John Taylour, Thomas Clerke, John Metteburne, Thomas Wylyyam, and John Solattare, who say that on Friday last at the first hour he was in the close of the monastery of Oseney leading to water a cream-coloured horse, worth 16s., for which the abbot of Oseney will answer, and the horse smote him with its hind legs on the left breast, whereof he died; and they say that he had his church rights.

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The horse would be a "deodand," and its value would be paid to the King when the itinerant judges came to Oxford.

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**JOHN TYNER**; Friday, July 17, 1388.

It came to pass on Friday before the feast of St. Margaret, 12 Ric. II., that John Tyner, a prisoner in the Castle prison, was found dead there. Thomas Hokyn came and held an inquest by the parishes of St. Thomas, St. Peter-in-the-Bailey, St. Ebbe, and St. Mary Magdalen by the oath of Thomas Whiteley, Henry Taylour, Geoffrey Fuller, Ralf Solattare, John Malyn solattare, John Bole, William Dyer, John Yarde, Thomas Caraway, Ric. Stauntone fuller, John Spur taylour, and Thomas Nubry, who say that John Tyner was sick from the feast of St. Barnabas to the said Friday, and then died at dawn by natural death, and endured no hardship from the warden of the prison.

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**WILLIAM BOWMON**; Friday, April 2, 1389.

It came to pass on Friday before the feast of St.

Ambrose, 12 Ric. II., that William Bowmon, clerk, died in the house of William Cokke of Brasenose, in the parish of St. Mary Magdalen. Thomas Hokyn came and held an inquest by the parishes of St. Giles and St. Mary Magdalen and the districts of Walton and Stokwellstrete, by the oath of Michael Smyth, Will. Wodestoke, John Smyth, Roger Fel-tone, Thomas Wele, Stephen Smyth, Nic. Carpenter, John Haubel, John Belton, Hugh Chamburleyne, Ric. Norton, and Reginald Webbe, who say that William Bowmon on Monday last, in a street called Catistrete, before noon was hit in the left arm by a clerk unknown with an arrow, worth 2d., for which John Langford, bailiff of Northgate hundred, will answer; and he sickened until the said Friday, and he had his church rights.

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"Cokke" means cook.

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**WILL. TYLER**; Friday, Oct. 28, 1389.

It came to pass on Friday after the "feast of Symon and Jude," 13 Ric. II., that Will. Tyler of Woburne was found dead in the house of Mariote atte Nashe in the parish of St. Mary Magdalen. Thomas Hokyn came and held an inquest by the parishes of St. Giles and St. Mary Magdalen and the districts of Walton and Stokwellstrete, by the oath of John Medeburne, John Capper, John Bloxam, Will. Stanlake, Alan Attemore, Will. Bray, John Martyn . . Ric. Norton, and Ric. Strynger, who say that on Monday last one Robert, a sclattare of Lancashire, was standing on a ladder on a house called Oxenford Inn, and one John Abel, a solattare, was standing on a ladder on the other side of the house; whereupon words of contumely were moved between them, and so Robert threw a hammer at the said John, and as William was mounting John's ladder behind him it smote him on his forehead even to the brain; and he sickened from the Monday to the said Friday; and they priced the hammer at 3d., for which John de Langford, bailiff, will answer; and he had the sacraments of the church.

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Oxenford Inn, on the west side of Magdalen Church, still retains the name which it acquired from Richard Oxenford, who owned it from 1367 to 1380. William of Wykeham bought it May 5, 1389, and two years later gave it to New College. This inquest shows that the Bishop repaired the roof of the inn before he gave it to his college. The inn

was also called the Black Bell. New College sold it within the last century.

**THOMAS MYMMES**; Wednesday, Feb. 16, 1380.

Inquest held before Thomas Hokyn, coroner of Northgate Hundred, on Wednesday before the feast of St. Peter in Cathedra, 13 Ric. II., on a view of the body of Thomas Mymmes of Chacombe, a prisoner in the Castle prison, charged with the murder of Richard Burges, by the parishes of "St. Thomas the Apostle" (*sic*), St. Peter-in-the-Bailey, St. Mary Magdalen, and St. Giles, by the oath of Henry Tayllour, Robert Rede, Will' Veysy, John Dier, Peter Webbe, John Brayles, John Martyn, Will' Attewyke, Reginald Attewike, Robert Kyng, William [blank], and William Cappe; who say that on Monday before the feast of St. Thomas the Apostle in the said year the said Thomas fell sick by the grace of God alone and not by the fault of any other, his guardians, and in that sickness he lay until the said Wednesday, and then died; and he had his church rights.

The original record says "14 Ric. II.," but to preserve the regular sequence we must alter the date to 13 Ric. II.

**ANDREW TETTUSWORTHE**; Wednesday, Jan. 11, 1391.

Inquest held before Thomas Hokyn on Wednesday before St. Hillary, 14 Ric. II., on a view of the body of Andrew Tettusworthe, by the oath of Thos. Wytheley, Henry Tayllour, Will' Gyles, John Martyn, John Wodehalle, Will' Harper, John Verrye, John Kynge, John Byberye, John Wythe, John Kingeseye, Roger Fuller, and Richard Janys; who say that the said Andrew was taken with illness for 15 days, and then died by a natural death and not by default of any his guardians; and he had his church rights.

This was evidently an inquest on a prisoner who had died in the Castle prison.

**THOMAS HATTON**; Monday, Jan. 16, 1391.

Inquest held in the Castle of Oxford on Monday after St. Hillary, 14 Ric. II., before Thomas Hokyn, on a view of the body of Thomas Halton, by the oath of Ric. Morton, Will' Harper, Roger Cranburne, Will' Webbe, John Paifrayman, John Bergeven, Patrick Noverell, Will' Dier, Rob. Mycul-tone, Ric. Janys, and John Ordele; who say that

the said Thomas was taken with illness for 15 days, and died on the said Monday by a natural death, and not by default of any of his guardians; and he had his church rights.

This also must have been a prisoner.

**AGNES BURLOND**; Saturday, Sept. 2, 1391.

Inquest before Thomas Hokyn on Monday before the feast of the Exaltation of Holy Cross, 15 Ric. II., on a view of the body of Agnes, wife of William Burlond, who was found dead and buried in a cesspit in the garden of William, her husband, in the parish of St. Giles, by the four nearer parishes, viz., St. Mary Magdalen, St. Giles, St. Thomas, and Wolvercote, by the oath of Michael Smyth, Walter Barliche, John Aubelle, John Rye, John Damalis, John Martyn, Ric. Bygge, Roger Dynnell, John Hurle, John Webbe, Will' Bodyn, and Rob' Stile; who say that William Burlonde on Saturday last slew Agnes his wife with a knife worth one penny, and with the knife he smote her on the head even to the brain. And they say that he has in goods six quarters of barley, a horse worth 6s., and 18 pigs worth 16d. each. They say that [blank] son of William Herebard, first found her. For which felony Burlonde fled to St. Giles's Church on the said Monday. And the abbess of Godstow will answer for the price of the goods. Pledges of the finder, John Bayly and Thomas Lokeer. The said William abode in that church until the Wednesday next, when he confessed before the coroner that he had committed the said felony, and abjured the realm, and Southampton was assigned him for a port, and he took the cross.

If Burlond was a resident in the manor of Walton, which belonged to Godstow, it would be natural that the abbess should answer for his goods.

**NICHOLAS COBBUS**; Monday, Oct. 23, 1391.

It came to pass on Monday after the feast of "Frideswide virgin," 15 Ric. II., that Isabella, wife of Nicholas Cobbus, was found dead in a hole (*puteo*) at Bolstake in Northgate Hundred. The same day Thomas Hokyn held an inquest by the four nearer parishes, viz., St. Mary Magdalen, St. Thomas the Martyr, Cumnor, and St. Frideswide, by the oath of Will' Attewike, John Tommus, John Attelhulle, John Gray, Will' Steward, John Lovekyn, Reginald Attewike, John Bocher, Mathew Baker,

John Mercham, John Metteburne, and John He-hot; who say that the said Isabella fell from a bridge at Bolstake into the water and so was drowned. William Iryahman first found her. Pledges of the finder, Ralf Hasard and Robert Iankyn.

Bolstake Meadow was on the west of Oseney. The parish of St. Frideswide in Oxford came to an end about 1290, but Binsey is sometimes called the parish of St. Frideswide, because it belonged to the monastery of St. Frideswide.

#### AGNES PERONE; Sunday, May 7, 1392.

It came to pass on Sunday after the feast of St. John before the Latin Gate, 16 Ric. II., that Agnes, daughter of Peter Perone, was killed by a sow in the parish of St. Giles. Thomas Hokyn came the same Sunday and held an inquest from the parishes of St. Giles, St. Mary Magdalen, St. Thomas, and St. Michael North, by the oath of Ric. Fulke, Stephen Smyth, Ric. Bassett, John Sadeler, John Perone, John Rye, John Bloxam, Adam de la Hamele, John Haynus, John Martyn, Robert Rome, William Tanner, Reginald Bibere; who say that a sow ate the head of the said Agnes even to the nose, and so she died, and the sow was arrested; value 2s. 4d.; and the said Agnes was half a year old. Stephen Smythe, constable of the abbess of Godstow, will answer for the price of the sow.

Accidents of this kind were not uncommon in the Middle Ages. In the episcopal registers at Lincoln is a copy of a certificate issued by the Bishop at the request of a certain woman, informing the world that the woman had lost an ear by the bite of a sow when as a baby she was lying on the floor, and that it was not cut off for any misdeed on her part.

#### JULIANA SCHRIDER; Thursday, Dec. 12, 1392.

It came to pass on Thursday after the feast of the Conception, 16 Ric. II., that Juliana, daughter of John Schrider, was found dead in a brook in the parish of St. Thomas in Northgate hundred. Thomas Hokyn came and held an inquest the same day by the parishes of St. Thomas, St. Peter in the Bailey, St. Giles, and St. Mary Magdalen, by the oath of Thomas Sartre, Will' Henzey, John Taylour, John Malyn, Thomas Nichol, John Welles, Will' Gemelle, John Skynner, John Bolle, Thomas Couper, Thomas Wylyam, and John Stantone; who say that on the said Thursday Juliana slipped from a bridge out-

side her father's gate, and fell into the water and so died. John Walshehan found her. Pledges of the finder Baldwin Attenoke and Richard Grym.

The old maps of Oxford show that the island of Oseney was intersected by a number of brooks.

#### ROBERT HOCHAM; Monday, May 26, 1393.

Inquest held before Thomas Hokyn on Monday before the feast of Holy Trinity, 16 Ric. II., in Northgate Hundred, on the view of the body of Robert Hocham, by the four nearer parishes, viz., St. Giles, St. Mary Magdalen, St. Michael North, and Holywell, by the oath of John Prodomme, John Milward, John Worthyn, John Smyth, John Rie, William Walyngford, Fulco Barbour, John Payne, Michael Smyth, Nic. Bower, Ric. Rolfe, and John Page; who say that the said day Robert bathed in Charwell and so came to Irischemanespylle [sic] and there was drowned. Henry Iriche found him; pledges of the finder John Cokyllesbury and Thomas Wykeker.

It is generally thought that Irishman's Pool is now Parson's Pleasure.

#### ABJURATION BY JOHN DAVY; Sunday, June 1, 1393.

On Sunday the feast of Holy Trinity, 16 Ric. II., before Thomas Hokyn, one of the coroners for Northgate Hundred, in the church of St. Mary Magdalen, John Davy, alias John Holt, late scholar of the University, acknowledged that he slew one William Boyd, of Yorkshire, a scholar of the University, on Thursday, in the fourth week of Lent, 12 Ric. II., in the parish of St. Mary Magdalen, for which felony he demanded the benefit of the church, etc., and asked for the cross, and he abjured the realm, and Southampton was given him as a port, and he had nought in goods.

It seems that four years after he had committed murder, John Davy took sanctuary and confessed and went into exile.

#### JOHN METTELEY; Thursday, Jan. 16, 1394.

Inquest held in the Castle of Oxford on Thursday after the feast of St. Hillary, 17 Ric. II., before Thomas Houkyn, on a view of the body of John Metteley, a prisoner in the king's prison, who had been indicted before John Seward, one of the coroners of Berkshire, for the murder of a man at Mal-

seneye; by the oath of Henry Moris, John Taylour, John Middleley, Philip Taylour, Peter Bramble, Walter Lyncoln, William Dyer, John Northbroke, Henry Draper, John Bole, Thomas Bradewey, and Ric. Fuller; who say that John Metteley lay sick from the feast of St. Andrew last until the said Thursday, and then died about the hour of curfew, by the grace of God and not by the fault of the guarding of the sheriff or his deputies.

**JOHN SADELER; Thursday, July 23, 1394.**

Inquest before Thomas Hokyn on Thursday after the feast of St. Mary Magdalen, 18 Ric. II., on a view of the body of John Sadeler, who was found dead in "le Brokynhayes," by the parishes of St. Michael N., St. Thomas, St. Mary Magdalen, and St. Giles, by the oath of Walter Hormusby, Will' Wodestoke, Peter Metteburne, Will' Tewe, John Axe, John Sadeler, Robert Cabbulle, John Perone, Reginald Webbe, John Taylour, Hugo Pont, and Adam Hamele; who say that on that day John Sadeler was taken with the "falling sickness" (morbis caducus), and suddenly fell to the ground and died.

**JOHN ROUME; Thursday, July 23, 1394.**

Inquest before Thomas Hokyn on Thursday after the feast of St. Mary Magdalen, 17 Ric. II., on a view of the body of John Roume, by the parishes of St. Thomas, St. Giles, St. Mary Magdalen, and St. Michael North; by the oath of Walter Hormesby, Will. Wodestoke, Peter Metteburne, Will. Tewe taylour, John Hax, John Potter, Rob. Cumnour, John Perkyn, Reginald Webbe, John Taylour, Hugo Pont, and Adam atte Hamelle; who say that John Roume on the said day in Stokwell Street, and fled; and he had nought in goods; he slew him with a dagger, price 4d., for which the tithing-man of the abbot of Oseney will answer.

Evidently one jury served for the two inquests on July 23. It will be noticed that in many cases a man had no definite surname; thus John Perone was also called John Perkyn. The murder must have taken place in the part of Walton Street which was within the Oseney Manor of Twenty-acres. Perhaps "walshehan" means Welshman.

**JOHN LEGGE; Tuesday, Jan. 5, 1395.**

Inquest before Thomas Hokyn on Tuesday before the feast of the Epiphany, 18 Ric. II., on a view of the body of John Legge, from the parishes of St.

Thomas, St. Peter-in-the-Bailey, St. Giles, and St. Mary Magdalen, by the oath of Will. Henzey, Henry Malon, Thomas Cowper, John Sorder, John Taylour, John Bole, Thos. Nicholl, John Tymmus, Ralf Solatter, John Horcherd, Thomas Cartre, and John Taylour, who say that John Legge that day was digging up a tree, and it fell on him and so he died, and he had his church rights. Price of the tree 1d., for which the abbot of Oseney will answer.

A tree large enough to kill a man must have been worth more than a penny; but perhaps the jury mercifully reckoned that it was only one branch and not the whole tree that was the weapon of death. This is the end of Coroner's Roll No. 133.

**Roll of NICHOLAS SAUNDRESDONE and JOHN SHAW, coroners of Oxford from Jan. 25, 9 Ric. II.**

**RICHARD KNIGHT; Monday, Jan. 29, 1395.**

It came to pass on Monday after the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul that Richard Knyght, of Mancipeshe, was found dead in a solar in Peynferthing-street. The jury say that on Sunday last John Gunderhumber, of Wales, clerk, met the said Richard in the parish of St. Michael North and smote him with a knife, and fled, whither is not known; and he had nought in goods, and Richard had his church rights.

Pennyfarthing Street is now Pembroke Street. This and the next two inquests are from Coroners' Roll, No. 135.

**EDMUND STRETE; Monday, Feb. 19, 1395.**

It came to pass on Monday before the feast of St. Peter in Cathedra, of Ric. II., that Thomas Dene, of Longcombe, found Edmund Strete, clerk, dead within the close of Great University Hall, in a chamber in the parish of St. Mary-the-Virgin. The same day an inquest was held. The jury say that John West, of Lantony, near Gloucester, servant of the said Edmund, slew him on Wednesday before the feast of St. Hillary, and hid him in the straw of his bed until the said Monday. And immediately after the felony he fled.

The western half of the old quadrangle of University College is on the site of Great University Hall.

**JOHN OONWAY; Sunday, April 8, 1395.**

It came to pass on Sunday, April 8, that John

Conewey, of Wales, clerk, was found dead in the high street behind All Saints' Church on the north side. The same day an inquest was held. The jury say that on Saturday last Thomas Catour, writer, met the said John in the said street and assaulted him with a knife called a dagger, price II<sup>d</sup>., and slew him, and he had his church rights. They say also that Hugo Huklyn, of Wales, clerk, was aiding at the death.

There was once a small road on the north side of All Saints' Church, just as there still is on the east side. This is what the record means by the high street.

This roll continues for about another year, but it is so decayed that only parts of the inquests can be deciphered. It contains twenty-three more inquests, of which nine were murders, one a suicide, two were natural deaths, and eleven were deaths by misadventure.

Roll of John Schawe and Peter Wellyngtone, coroners of Oxford, from Monday before the feast of the Purification, 12 Ric. II.

GEOFFREY, FROM WALES; Saturday, April 3, 1389.

It came to pass on Saturday before the feast of St. Ambrose, 12 Ric. II., that Geoffrey [illegible], of Wales, clerk, was found dead in a hall called Hampton Hall, in the parish of St. Mildred. An inquest was held; and the jury say that on Friday last at the hour of vespers, between the church of All Saints and the church of St. Mary, Robert Stardhope, of the county of Carlisle, shot the said Geoffrey with an arrow worth 2<sup>d</sup>. in the right side; and he went as far as Hampton Hall and there died, and he had his church rights; and the felon withdrew himself, and he has no goods.

Hampton Hall stood where the disused gate of Lincoln is. With this inquest we begin Coroners' Roll No. 137.

THOMAS REPONE; Sunday, April 4, 1389.

It came to pass on Sunday the feast of St. Ambrose that Thomas Repone, "apparreter" of the Chancellor, was found dead in a house held by Hamund le Coresser in Grope Lane, in the parish of St. John. An inquest was held the same day; the jury say that on Saturday last Elyas Pannour of Wales, clerk, met Thomas Repone in the said street over against Lionn Halle and smote him

with a baslarde worth 4<sup>d</sup>. and slew him; and he had his church rights; and the felon withdrew and has nought in goods.

Grope Lane is now Grove Street; the lower half of it was within the parish of St. John. Lion Hall was at its northern end, on the east side.

JOHN MARTYN; Tuesday, June 29, 1389.

It came to pass on Tuesday, the feast of SS. Peter and Paul, 13 Ric. II., that John Martyn was found dead within the close of Queen's College in a chamber. An inquest was held the same day. The jury say that in the afternoon (*statim post horam nonam*) of that day words of contumely were moved between the said John and one Richard Gille, clerk, of the "county of Carlisle," and so Richard drew a knife, worth 1<sup>d</sup>., and smote him to the heart, and so he died; and he had his church rights; and the felon withdrew and has nought in goods.

REGINALD HELIBOTH and THOMAS SCLATTERE; Saturday, July 10, 1389.

It came to pass on Saturday after the feast of the translation of St. Thomas the Martyr that Richard Wargrave found Reginald Heliboth, weaver, and Thomas Sclattere, servant of Adam Sclattere, dead within the grounds (*mansum*) of a house of John Forster in the parish of St. Ebbe. An inquest was held the same day. The jury say that Reginald Heliboth that day descended a well within the grounds aforesaid to fetch "a Bokette" which fell in the well; and when he was at the bottom of the well he was utterly suffocated for want of air; and Thomas perceiving that he was a long while in the well descended the well to help him, and so they were suffocated together. And John Forster was bidden fill up the well. Pledges of the finder Will. Wodecok and Thomas Fake.

JOHN CURTEYS; Tuesday, Aug. 10, 1389.

Tuesday the feast of St. Lawrence, 13 Ric. II., an inquest on John Curteys, of Lyford, accused of robbery, who died in the Castle prison. The jury say that he died on Monday at midnight by a natural death.

SYMON PLOMMER; Monday, Nov. 22, 1389.

Monday [before the feast] of St. Katharine, 14 Ric. II., John Ricote found Symon Plommer dead

in Graumponnte in the parish of St. Michael South. The jury say that on Sunday last Simon went to bed and placed a lighted candle [on the wall], and at midnight it fell on the straw of his bed while he was asleep, and burnt him and his bed. Pledges of the finder William Fyfedo and John Merlynge.

#### JOHN DERESON.

Thursday [ ] John Dereson was found dead in a house of Edmund Franceys in "le Cokerewe" in the parish of St. Martin. An inquest was held the same day. The jury say that on Wednesday last a clerk from Ireland, named Morgan, met the said John opposite the door of Edmund Franceys, and smote him on the head and slew him; and he had his church rights; and the felon fled; whither, is not known, for it was at night; and he has nought in goods.

The Cook row is not a street, but the name for either the north end of St. Aldate's Street or the west end of High Street; probably the latter.

#### JOHN GRYMUSBY; Tuesday, Nov. 16, 1389.

It came to pass on Tuesday after the feast of St. Martin that Bernard Paoche found John Grymusby dead in the house of the Hospital of St. John without the East Gate. An inquest was held the same day. The jury say that Henry Herdeller slew the said John in his bed in the said house, smiting him on the head with an axe as he was asleep. The felon withdrew and he has nought in goods.

It is not stated whether John Grymusby was one of the brethren of the Hospital, or only a servant. The next four inquests are illegible, and the whole roll is in bad condition.

#### ROLL OF JOHN SHAW AND PETER WEL-LYNGTON, coroners, 18 Ric. II.

#### ABJURATION BY THOMAS MARES; Mar. 17, 1393.

Monday after the feast of St. Gregory, 16 Ric. II., in the chapel of the New College before the said coroners Thomas Mares of the County of Weld (*sic*) confessed that he was a felon and had slain one John Bland on Tuesday after the feast of All Saints, 14 Ric. II., at Queinhythe in London, smiting him on the head with a sword as he was stepping from a

boat; and he abjured the realm and received the cross.

This is one of the earliest instances of the phrase "New College." The general title for this college in early times was "the College of St. Mary of Winchester."

#### RICHARD CLEYDON; Friday, May 16, 1393.

On Friday after Ascension Day, 16 Ric. II., Richard Cleydon was found dead in Jurelane in the parish of St. Edward. The jury say that he was slain by one named John, who smote him with a knife called a "coppegorge" and fled.

Jury Lane exists no longer; it was parrallel to Blue Boar Lane, about 60 yards to the south.

#### ROBERT FISSHER; Wednesday, July 9, 1393.

On Wednesday after the feast of the Translation of St. Thomas, 17 Ric. II., Robert Fisser was found dead at "Pynsay." The jury say that Henry Scotte smote him with a staff and slew him and fled.

Pynsay no doubt is Binsey.

#### JOHN WYNTRYNGHAM; July 22, 1393.

Tuesday the feast of St. Mary Magdalen, 17 Ric. II., John Wyntryngham was found dead in the house of John Wade in the parish of St. Mary the Virgin. The jury say that William Scotte shot him with an arrow and fled.

#### A WORKMAN AT THE GREY FRIARS; Saturday Sept. 20, 1393.

Saturday after the feast of the Exaltation of Holy Cross, 17 Ric. II., John [illegible] was found dead in the infirmary of the Friars Minors. The jury say that he [was building] a porch at the door of the Friars Minors, and a long stone, price 20d., fell on him, and he died; and he had his church rights.

#### JOHN CLERE accuses JOHN PONTFRAYT.

On [ ] 17 Ric. II., in the church of [ ] at Oxford John Clere of Cassington admitted that he was a felon and had stolen from the church of St. Frideswyde a martiloge worth 5s., a pealser worth 3s., a towel worth [ ], and an altar cloth worth 2d.; and he says that he did it at the suggestion of John Pontfrayt of Oxford;



and that John Pontfrayt on the morrow of All Saints knowing that he was a thief received the said goods in his house in Cat Street; whereof John Clere "appeals" him.

**JOHN TRAGSCHYR**; Saturday, Nov. 1, 1393.

Saturday, All Saints Day, 17 Ric. II., John Tragschyr, canon of Oseney, was found dead in the water near Castle Mill within the liberty of Oxford. The jury say that he slipped on a bridge called Quaking Bridge and fell in the water and was drowned.

Quaking Bridge still retains its name. Evidently in those days it had no railing. Two of the canons of Oseney crossed the bridge daily as they went to the chapel of St. George, which they were bound to serve.

**MAGOTA DE LA CHAUNBER**; January 5, 1393.

The Vigil of the Epiphany, 17 Ric. II., Magota de la Chaunber was found dead at Granteponnte in water called Charwelle within the liberty of Oxford. The jury say that on that day she slipped on a bridge called Tremlayne "powe" and fell into the water on a stake that was in the water, and she was injured by the stake and also drowned.

Trill Mill Bow was the bow or arch over Trill Mill stream, between 9 and 10, St. Aldate's. In those days a branch of the Charwell found its way across Christ Church Meadows to the lower part of Trill Mill stream, so that the lower part of Trill Mill stream was called Charwell.

**NICHOLAS HUSKE**; Thursday, Feb. 11, 1396.

On Thursday after St. Scholastica's day Nicholas Huske was found dead in the house of Roger Barber in St. Mary's parish. The jury say that on Monday after Feb. 2 he fell on his knife in School Street and wounded himself, whereof he died on the said Thursday.

Then follow two cases of murder that are illegible.

**JOHN WHYTE**, approver.

19 Ric. II., John Whyte, approver, in the custody of the bailiffs, confesses before the coroners that on Wednesday before Nov. 1, 18 Ric. II., between Rumford and Elford in Essex, he robbed a foreign merchant of a peck of woollen cloth worth ten marks, and he accuses certain men dwelling in

Aldgate and Holburn of receiving the cloth knowing that it was stolen.

Approver means king's evidence.

**ROGER**; Monday, July 3, 1396.

On Monday after St. Peter and St. Paul, 20 Ric. II., Roger (illegible) was found dead within the house of St. John without the East Gate. The jury say that on Saturday last he was crossing Little Bridge without East Gate and met a horse laden with a sack of wheat, and the end of the sack touched him and he fell in the water, and at once he was taken out and carried to the said house where he died.

Little Bridge is Magdalen Bridge. We should conclude from this inquest that the bridge had no parapet or rail. Certainly one of the arches was of the nature of a drawbridge, and would therefore have no rails.

**JOHN BEAMYS**; Monday, July 26, 1396.

Monday after the feast of St. James, 19 Ric. II., John Bemys, a prisoner in the custody of William Dagville, mayor, and of John Otteworth and John Sprount, bailiffs, died in the house of William Dagville. The jury say that he died of the Pestilence.

This concludes the Coroners' Inquests preserved at the Record Office, as there are no rolls for Oxfordshire of a later date than the reign of Richard II.; but there are a few preserved among the gaol delivery rolls, of which we print one.

**WALTER BARLICHE**; Friday, Aug. 8, 1406.

Inquest before Gilbert Burtone, one of the king's coroners for the county of Oxford, on Friday before the feast of St. Laurence, 7. Hen. IV., on a view of the body of Walter Barliche, who died in Stokwelle-strete, by the four nearer parishes, viz., St. Mary Magdalen and St. Giles in Northgate hundred, St. Thomas and Holy Cross. The jury say that on Thursday last at the tenth hour of the night John Frensh, labourer, and Agnes, his wife, broke into the close of the garden of the said Walter and stole his goods, to the value of 2s. Afterwards they returned and assaulted him, John with a staff worth 1d., and Agnes with a knife worth 1d.; and John smote him on the head even to the brain, and Agnes smote him in the throat with her knife; and so they slew him; and immediately John fled,

and Agnes was sent to the Castle prison; and they say that John had goods to the value of 8s., which remain in the custody of William Wrasteler, bailiff of Northgate Hundred, together with the staff and knife.

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This is from Gaol Delivery Roll, No. 57, membrane 1d. The next two were copied by Twyne from rolls which were preserved in his time among the town records.

JOHN WALTON; July 2, 1438 (Twyne iv. 35).

It came to pass within the priory of St. Frideswyde at Oxford, on the second day of July, in the sixteenth year of King Henry VI., that John Walton, canon of the priory, was found dead. Whereupon Thomas Daggeville, one of the king's coroners within the liberty of the town of Oxford, came and held thereon an inquest from the parishes of St. Edward, All Saints, St. Aldate's, and St. Michael's South, by the oath of Richard Milton, John Moris, John Coke, Thomas Offord, Richard Porter, Hugh Sadeler, Dionysius Tayler, Henry Tanner, John Medford, William Sturmy, William Gille, and Thomas Hasele; who say upon their oath that the said John Walton, on the said second day of July, in a meadow called Frise-withmede, withdrew from his brethren (of the priory) when they were making hay, and passed over to a brook to wash and bathe himself, even to a spot in that brook by the said meadow called le Lokpole, and by misfortune he was drowned; and so he was the cause of his own death.

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Frideswidemedede is now Christ Church Meadow. A "Lock Pool" generally means a pool above a weir or lock. It is likely that it was the pool of Trill Mill, which was on the west side of the mead, the brook being Trill Mill stream.

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THOMAS CARDIFF; Sunday, Sept. 3, 1441 (Twyne iv. 21).

It came to pass at Oxford, in the parish of St. Aldate, on Sunday next after the feast of St. Giles, in the twentieth year of King Henry the Sixth, that Thomas Cardiff, chaplain, was found dead. Whereupon Thomas Dagville, king's coroner within the liberty of the town of Oxford, came and viewed the body and held thereon an inquest from the four neighbouring parishes, viz., St. Martin, St. Peter-in-the-Bailey, St. Ebbe, and Saint Michael, at the South Gate, by the oath of Oliver Urrie and others; who say upon their oath that on the previous Wed-

nesday Richard Adyson, of Oxford, scholar, born in the parish of Romelkirke, Yorks, shot the said Thomas Cardyff feloniously in the neck as he was passing through the street by the house of William Taylur; whereof he sickened from the said Wednesday until the next Sunday, when he died from the said felonious shooting; and thus Richard Adyson, of Oxford, scholar, feloniously slew Thomas Cardyff.

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This concludes the mediæval inquests for Oxford, but we print some records of a like nature which are preserved at the Record Office among the Ancient Indictments.

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AN INQUEST; Wed., Jan. 12, 1206.

An inquest before Martin le Samplar', coroner of the town of Oxford, and Thomas de Henexseye and Ralf de Stokes, bailiffs of the town of Oxford, on Wednesday next after the feast of St. Hillary, in the 24th year of King Edward, about the burglary of the church of St. Frideswyde, and a disturbance of the peace and an assault made in Catestrete on Tuesday after the feast of St. Hillary, by the oath of Will. Attheoke, Symon Scot, Walter le Parmenter, Hugh de Boreford, Walter de Abitone, Martin son of Robert le Notur, John de Yrland, Henry de Lyncolne, Thomas de Leycestre, Ric. Cocus, and Ric. le Tayllur, Roger de la Cornere, Godfrey le Mercer, Symon de Petipund, and Ric. de Wymondesham, of the parish of St. Mary; John de Walton, Will. de Coventre, John de Ty, and Bricius de Leverton, of the parish of Holy Cross; and by the oath of Henry de Hampton, John le Tayllur, Thomas de Mor..., Gilb. de Ros, Geof. de Langeford, Thos. de Wessenham, Ric. de Bampton, Will. de Henexseye, John le Vynur, Thurstan and Robert de Dryehulle, sworn to speak the truth about the aforesaid; who say that Robert de Spaldingge, Henry de Spaldingge, Symon de Spaldingge, and Hugh de Spaldingge were at the burglary of the church of St. Frideswide, and that they are notorious robbers, night-wanderers. They say also that the said Robert, Henry, Symon, and Hugh, and likewise Adam de Wolnesby, Stephen his comrade, both dwelling at Harehalle, in "Gibaldestrete," and Hugh Pychard, dwelling in the house of John de Doolynton, towards East Gate, came on the said Tuesday in Catestrete, when it was late (sero), with swords and knives drawn, and there made an assault on all that they could reach, and beat them and wounded them and evil intreated them, and

one by name Emma le Wilde they smote with a sword across the back, so that there was despair of her life.

This is from Ancient Indictments 98A. Harehale was at the back of the shop of Walford and Spokes; Kybold-street was between High Street and Merton Street; the angle in Logie Lane shows its line.

INQUEST CONCERNING A DISTURBANCE on  
Tuesday, Nov. 11, 1298.

Inquest held on Wednesday after the feast of St. Leonard, in the 26th year of King Edward, before the bailiffs of the town of Oxford by the oath of Rob. de Watlington, Ric. de Snoring, John de Stafford, Ric. de Pistrino, Ric. le Barbor, Will. le Flecher, Hen. le Flecher, Gilb. de Grenstede, John Trynaler, Nic. de Dogmeresfeld, Rog. le Flecher, Nic. le Cytoler, Rog. de Mortemer, Thos. de Boys, Gilb. le Furbor, Ric. le Herber, and Hen. de Lychesfeld, who were sworn to make inquiry about the hue raised in the parish of St. Mary on Tuesday last about the hour of vespers; who say upon their oath that Philip de Dene, serjeant (serviens) of the bailiffs, came on Tuesday by the command of the bailiffs, his masters, to the house of Will. de Milton, mustarder, in the said parish, where the said William and Alice his wife dwell, and asked of them two shillings at which they were assessed by the common assent of the community for a talliage of 50 marks. And the said William and Alice would not pay the two shillings, but utterly refused; wherefore Philip would have made distraint for the two shillings, and since he could find nothing to distraint he looked on all sides throughout the house and saw a key in a door of a chamber, and he went to the door and fastened it with the key, and when he would go forth from the house Alice immediately raised the hue against him, and William likewise raised the hue against him and called him thief and robber, saying that he wished to rob their goods; and therefore none the less Philip sealed the key with his seal and delivered it to John de Stafford, the next neighbour, to keep it until his masters aforesaid should give command about it; and at once Alice came and would have taken it away from the said John, but he retained the key, but she took the seal off it; and Philip again sealed the key and delivered it again to the said John; and

the said William and Alice ever continued the hue against the said Philip to their injury. In witness whereof the jurors have fixed their seals to this inquest.

This is from Ancient Indictments 98A. History tells of a talliage that was laid upon Oxford in 1298; there had been an affray between the Town and the University, and the Town had been condemned to pay 200 marks; it is not unlikely that the penalty was reduced to 50 marks.

INQUEST; Friday, Jan. 25, 1314.

Inquest held before Adam de la Fenne, steward of the lands of Queen Margaret, on Friday after the feast of St. Vincent in the seventh year of King Edward, upon certain articles, by the oath of Andrew de Pyrie, John de Coleshulle, Henry de Lenne, Will. de Pennarth, John de Hampton, Rob. de Watlington, Gilb. de Grenstede, Ric. de Berkele, John de Ew, John Culuerd, John Bate, Nic. le Mercer, Henry de Brampton, John le Lumenur, Rob. de Welles, Rob. de Heyford, Roger Boet, and John de Iarme, who say concerning the first article, namely, about advowsons of churches, about chapels, about religious houses, about hospitals, that nothing has been done in Oxford to the prejudice of the Queen; to the second article which is contained within the first, in that no one had or could have any profit therein; to the third article they answer that no damage has been done in houses, mills, meadows, closes, or other things, but they say that the lands of the Templars within the town of Oxford are estimated at 54/1 of rent of assize, and without Northgate in Stockwell Street 28/9 from diverse tenements, and in the hundred without Northgate a vacant piece of land which Rob. de Welles holds at a rent of sixpence. They say that about chattels of felons and fugitives answer will be given when the judges come in eyr, unless the king gives special order. They say that lands and tenements have not been appropriated without licence of the king; that the names of the bailiffs of the town have been delivered to Adam de la Fenne for the whole time of the said Queen; that he has seen diverse tallies and acquittances, and that no other inquiry can be made. They say also that diverse farmers of the mills and of Kingsmede meadow, of the assize of bread and beer, and of Northgate hundred have held by special and

diverse commissions all the time of the Queen and still hold.

This is from Ancient Indictments 98a. Queen Margaret, widow of Edward I., was given the profits of the town of Oxford for her maintenance; hence this inquest. "Farmers of the mills" means those who have taken a lease of the mills; as the Castle Mill had two wheels it was generally called "mills," not mill. Kingsmead was a short distance below the mill.

#### AN INQUEST; Friday, Dec. 30, 1323.

An inquest held at Oxford on Friday before the feast of the Circumcision in the second year of Edward III., before the bailiffs and the constable of the peace, by John le Saucer, John de Islep, Rob. de Stoke, Geof. de Warmwell, Will atte. More junior, Will. de Stanlake, John Dich, Augustine le Nedlere, Rob. de Stratton, Ric. le Chepman, Rob. de Yeffele, and Nic. de Dryhull, who say that Geof. le Hetheward of Newenham, together with Symon Lyndrich, on Monday before the feast of St. Lucy at Oxford slew Robert de Clyvele, clerk; and that the said Geoffrey is a common thief. They say also that Ric. Lerde of Cornwall and John de Elsefelde, on Wednesday before the feast of the Circumcision, on Grantpount at night stole four books worth 100s., and that they are common thieves. They say also that John le Large junior, on St. Hilary's day 16 Ed. II., in the suburb of Oxford, stole fish of Geof. le Cha to the value of two marks, and that he is a common thief.

#### AN INQUEST; Saturday, June 6, 1366.

Inquest at Oxford before John de Stodle, mayor, and John de Baldyngton, justices of the peace and for the guarding of the statutes issued at Winchester, Northampton, and Westminster, held on Saturday after the feast of Corpus Christi, 40 Ed. III., by the oath of Will. Hod, Rob. de Cornewaille, John Egrove, Rob. Dutton, Hugh le Webbe, Rob. de Ledecombe, John de Watlyntone, John de Denton, John de Morton, Thos. de Aylesbury, Rob. de Notyngnam, and John Lally junior; who say that Henry Louche, writer, on Wednesday in Whitsun week, in the parish of All Saints, robbed Richard, servant of John Lally senior, of a bed worth 14s., of five sheets worth 10s., of a cloak worth 11s., of

32s. in money, and seized and took away Alice, wife of the said Richard.

This robbery was committed on May 27, 1366.

#### INQUEST; Tuesday, April 17, 1369.

Inquest at Oxford before John Gybbes and John de Somerford, bailiffs of the liberty of the town of Oxford, on Tuesday after the day of St. Leo, in the 43rd year of King Edward III., by the oath of Hen. de Wytteneye, Hen. le Smyth, Phil. le Hostiller, Walter Shirewode, David le Tailleour, Alan May, Rob. de Wycombe, Thomas Tree, Stephen le Webbe, Ric. de Cornewaille webbe, John le Coupere, and John Beneyt webbe; who say that Simon de Bynesham webbe (=weaver), John George, Henry Wylcokes of Rousham, and Thomas Nicole, with other felons, on Wednesday the feast of the St. Leo, in the 43rd year, in the parish of St. Edward, at night set fire to the Great School of the prior of St. Frideswide in Jewry (Judaismo) and burnt it; and on Palm Sunday the same year in the parish of St. Aldate they burnt the house of John de Shelton at night; and on Easter Day the same year in the parish of St. Aldate they burnt the house of Peter Driffeld by night; and on Sunday before the feast of St. Leo in the parish of St. Aldate they burnt the house of William Saunders, and also the house of the Warden of Merton Hall. And they say that Blaunden la Spynnestere on the said days in the parish of St. Aldate harboured them, though she had knowledge of the said felonies. And they say that they are common thieves.

Palm Sunday was March 25th, Easter Day April 1st; the house of Merton College in St. Aldate's parish was Bull Hall, on the north side of Pembroke Street. The great school of the Prior of St. Frideswide was on the north side of a lane called Little Jewry, which was parallel to Blue Boar Lane and south of it.

#### INQUEST; Thursday, Sept. 27, 1375.

Inquest held at Oxford before Geof. de Brehull and Ric. de Garston bailiffs, John Gibbes one of the aldermen, and Roger Stodle one of the constables of the town, on Thursday after the feast of St. Mathew in the 49th year of Edward III. by the oath of Hugh Musselwyk, John le Flecchere, Gilb. le Cappere, John de Morton, John Prodhomme, John le Sporiere, Nic. le Tailleour, Ric. le Webbe,

John Lally junior, Stephen le Webbe, Thomas Seter-ton, and Roger de Henxseye, who say that Dom. John Taillour, curate (*capellanus*) of Wellesbourne of the county of Warwick, on Thursday after Christmas Day in the 48th year at Oxford robbed John Wyndesore of Oxford of a "Qwylte" and one double sheet worth 28s. 8d.; and on Monday after Easter in the 49th year robbed brother John de Aylesbury, prior of the Carmelite Friars of three coverlits (*covertorils*) three testers and curtains (*ridell*) worth 100s., and on Easter Eve in the 49th year in a hall called Ledeneporche robbed Master William Marchaunt, clerk, of two almuce (*armilances*) worth 13s. 4d. And they say that the said Sir John is a common thief.

This Prior of the Carmelites is unknown. An almuce was a small cape, worn by clerks of dignity.

#### INQUEST; Tuesday, May 12, 1388.

Inquest at Oxford before Walter Bowne and John Bereford bailiffs, at the "turn" of the King held there on Tuesday after the feast of the Ascension in the 11th year of Richard II., by the oath of Henry Tywe, John Forester, John Swanborne, John Walker, John Bereford, John Zeffele, Michael Salesbury, John Botelstone, John Gold, Walter Patyner, John Garsyndone, and Stephen Palmere; who say that John Curteys, William Harburgh, David Kam, William Crun, Philip Mayheu of Mayeu, David Krane, Morice Lowys, Thomas Sherman clerk, John Burton, and William Willersby, with others, on Sunday next after Easter in the 11th year in the parish of St. Martin broke into the shop of John Spyocer "taillour" by night and stole woollen cloth of diverse colour to the value of 50 marks; and into a cellar of William Palmere in the same parish and stole 4s. 8d. in money; and into a cellar of Will. Codeshale in the same parish and stole 10s. in money; and they say that they are common robbers; and they say that Matilda Deye, Rosa Webbe, and Elena Lotlevyn are common harbourers of them, and harboured them before and after, knowing their felonies. And they say that Isabella Whyte of Ireland on Monday in mid-Lent stole from John Styvyngton a baslard worth 3s. 4d., and on Monday after the feast of the Nativity of St. John Baptist in the same year stole from the house of John Dysson two silver spoons worth 2s.; also

they say that Iodwycus Bonethyng of Wales on Monday after Palm Sunday stole from John Gwyneie sherman a baslard worth 3s. 4d.

A baslard was a knife or dagger; in the Coroners' Inquests a baslard is usually valued at 4d. A sherman is one who shears cloth.

#### INQUEST ON THE MISDEEDS OF JOHN COUGHWHEL; Friday, Aug. 20, 1389.

Inquest held at Oxford on Friday after the feast of the Assumption of St. Mary, 13 Ric. II., before John Hicke and Thomas Somersete aldermen of the town of Oxford, Peter Welyngton one of the coroners of the King, Bartholomew Bysshop and John Forestere bailiffs, Roger Everard and John Gersyndon constables of the town, by the oath of Will. Palmer, John Veyne, John Spyocere, Will. Fourbour, Thos. Smart, Reginald Tanner, Jordan Bow-yere, John Bernard, Thos. Blount, John Dyve, Will. Hampton chaundeler, and Ric. Wenlok, who say that John Coughwhel of Watlyngton, on Wednesday after Michaelmas, 11 Ric. II., came and made an assault on Thomas Hosebonde, of Oxford, fuller, with a long two-handed (*ancipite*) sword upon East Bridge, within the liberty and power of the town of Oxford, and beat, wounded, and evil intreated him, and maimed him by breaking his left arm twice, so that there was despair of his life. They say also the same day at the same place he made an assault on John Mason of Cornewalll, and beat, wounded, and evil intreated him and well-nigh cut off one of his arms with the said sword. They say also that about the feast of St. Philip and St. James, in the 10th year of the reign, he came at night and made an assault in All Saints parish on Hugh Welsahman "taillour," and beat him and evil intreated him and well-nigh cut off his thumb with his sword. They say also that about the feast of St. Luke, in the 9th year of the reign, he came and made an assault on Hugh Hedeworthe, and beat him and evil intreated him to the injury of the King's peace and the terror of his people. They say also that on Wednesday after the feast of the Assumption, in the 13th year, he came and made a rescue at Oxford against Roger Staunton, one of the bailiffs' serjeants, sworn and known, who was doing his office in the name of the bailiffs, and assaulted the said Richard with a long Baselarde which he drew (*evaginato*), and when

John Forester, one of the bailiffs, saw him commit such open injuries and disturbances of the peace, he would have arrested him and rendered him to the peace of the King; but he would not surrender himself, but resisted the bailiff and took him by the neck and held him with force, so that he drew blood from the bailiff, and he openly threatened many of the town, viz., that he would beat some and kill some when he shall have them in his power, to the great disturbance of the King's peace and the terror of his people. And they say that he is a common disturber of the peace, a brawler and malefactor.

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INQUEST; Wednesday, Sept. 1, 1389.

An inquest held at Oxford on Wednesday after the feast of the Beheading of St. John-the-Baptist, 13 Ric. II., before Ric. de Garstone mayor, Thomas Somersete one of the aldermen, Peter de Welyngton one of the coroners of the town, Bartholomew Bysshope and John Forestere bailiffs of the liberty of the town of Oxford by the oath of John Groom "bocher," John Botelstone, John Blood, John Beaulé, John Groom "webbe," John Hulle, Thomas Wormecote, John Keryace, Andrew Boteslee, William Frenshe "fourbour," John Mercham, and John Goolde, who say that Walter Gum manciple, Thomas manciple of Chekerhalle, Simon Coventre manciple of St. Edmondhalle in the parish of St. Peter-in-the-East, Robert Wastel, Robert Hethe, Nic. Tourseye, and John Lude gardener with other felons unknown on Sunday the feast of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist robbed Robert Mayde, manciple of Sainte Laurence Halle of a wax candle, worth 5s., in the parish of All Saints by night, and beat and wounded and evil intreated him, so that there was despair of his life. They say also that these and other felons the same Sunday night in the parish of St. Aldate, with axes and other instruments, cut doors, windows, and stalls of the prior of St. Frideswide and of Hugh de Wyndle and in part broke them, and would have entered the houses at their will and would have robbed those within of goods and chattels. Also, that these and other felons the same Sunday by night in the parish of St. Martin broke into a shop of Will. Bergeveny and stole 15 lambs skins, worth 3s., the property of Will. Bergeveny. Also that they and other felons the same Sunday by night at the procuring, incitement, and abetting of Agnes daughter of John Punfold, with axes and other instruments smote and broke doors and windows of the house of Ric. Bowyers

on Grauntpoint, and would have entered the house at their will and would have slain him and stolen his goods. And they made between themselves a "Waccheword" that night, viz., "Choppecherye."

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Checkerhalle was in Turl Street, and is now in Exeter College; St. Laurence Hall was in Ship Street, and is now in Jesus College; St. Edmund's Hall is described as in the parish of St. Peter-in-the-East to distinguish it from another St. Edmund's Hall in School Street. It was an additional enormity when malefactors banded themselves together with a watchword. Chop-cherry is now called Bob-cherry; this is 200 years earlier than any instance of the word given in Murray's Dictionary.

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INQUEST; Monday, Sept. 13, 1389.

An inquest held at Oxford on Monday after the feast of the Nativity of St. Mary, 13 Ric. II., before Bartholomew Bysshop and John Forestere bailiffs of Oxford, by the oath of Ric. Wyndel, John Denton, Geof. Harley, Will. Groom, John Veyn, Thos. Warynere, John London, Jordan Bowyers, Thomas Wormecote, Jordan Penket, John Groom webbe, and Thomas Hunte; who say that William manciple of Poulhalle, Will. Alkebarwe, John Grisell, Roger y Weyt, Henry Benton, Adam Perle, and others on Sunday the feast of the Beheading of St. John-the-Baptist with axes and other instruments broke the door and windows of the house of Ric. Bowyers on Grauntpoint in the suburb of Oxford and would have entered the house at their will and would have slain him and stolen his goods. They say also that on the same Sunday the same William and the others robbed Robert Mayde manciple of Saint Laurence Halle of a "Torche" value 4s. in the parish of All Saints, and beat and wounded and evil intreated him, so that there was despair of his life. They say also that the said William manciple of Poulhalle about the feast of St. Luke in the 11th year received in his house in the parish of St. Ebbe one Robert Skinner of London with one ruby tunic worth 8s., one fur of "Popel" worth 15s., and one tunic of russet worth 5s., knowing that he had stolen them from Elizabeth Woluesham near Botley, and also knowing that he was indicted for the death of a woman of Cokkeslane in London. They say also that Alice Houwes tapstress (tapetrix) of John Stratford of Oxford about the feast of St. Peter ad Vincula, in the 8th year of the King, stole at

Oxford a cup of mazer (*siphum de masero*) worth 20s. from John Veyn of Oxford.

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Paul Hall was in St. Ebbe's parish on the north side of Pembroke Street. It is not certain what was meant in the Middle Ages by "a cup of mazer"; by a mazer we mean a cup or bowl made

of wood, but in the Middle Ages mazer was used of some costly material; some of the best authorities identify it with porcelain.

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All these inquests are preserved at the Record Office among Ancient Indictments, 98A.



# TWYNE ON SOUTH BRIDGE.

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The following treatise on the repairing of South Bridge in the Middle Ages (Twyne MS., vol. 24, pp. 443-460) was composed by Twyne about the year 1630; perhaps we may guess that the first part dates from about 1627, when it was still in dispute who ought to repair the bridge, and that the last part was added some three years later when the repairs had been carried out. It is worth printing partly for what it says about the bridge in the Middle Ages, but still more for the account it gives of South Bridge, South Gate, Water Gate, Friar Bacon's study, etc., in the time of Twyne.

Brian Twyne was born about 1579; he was admitted a scholar of C.C.C. in December, 1594, B.A. in 1599, Fellow in 1605; he remained in Oxford all his life, and though he was inducted vicar of Rye in Sussex in 1614, he never lived in, or (as far as we know) visited, his parish. His father was a celebrated doctor and writer, who lived at Lewes; his grandfather was a schoolmaster, writer, and member of Parliament, living at Canterbury. In 1608 Brian Twyne published a book on the antiquity of Oxford; in 1634 he was appointed keeper of the University Archives; in 1644 he died in his lodgings in Pembroke Street. All his life he was copying documents about Oxford wherever he could find them, and at his death he left 40 manuscript volumes of his transcripts, of which more than 30 remain to this day. Living before the Civil War, he was able to copy records which perished within the next few years, such as the oldest municipal records of Oxford, and only those who have studied his volumes can estimate how great is their value; at the same time only those who have studied them can estimate how great is their confusion; on one page he will leap from the 12th century to the 17th, and then back again, he passes from Oxford to London

and London to Dover without any indication, he will transcribe the same document four or five times, and his extracts from any one source such as the Hustings Rolls are scattered over many of his volumes. For many reasons his transcripts should be rearranged and printed, and if the funds were forthcoming the Oxford Historical Society could, and would, issue some valuable volumes from this source, such as the old Hustings Rolls, or the Red Book, giving the mediæval customs of the city; to pay the cost of such a volume would be a worthy deed for some one who loves Oxford.

To understand the following document something must be said on two matters, South Bridge as it then was, and Twyne's point of view. South Bridge, as it now is, dates from 1825; the old bridge was on the same site, but much narrower; and it had a gateway in the middle, with a tower above it which was called Bachelor's Tower about 1560, and subsequently Friar Bacon's Study or The Folly. During the reign of Queen Elizabeth this tower was rented by the Archdeacon of Oxford, who held his court there. But somewhat after the year 1787 many alterations were made; the tower was taken down, the northern branch of the river was filled up, and houses now stand on its site, and finally a new and wider bridge was built. The site of the tower is correctly marked in the ordnance survey; it was at the south end of what we now call Folly Bridge, but in the middle of the bridge, as it then was.

As for Twyne's point of view, it must be remembered that he, in common with all members of the University, was convinced that townsmen were born with a double portion of original sin, that they were created by Providence, or permitted by Providence, for the purpose of trying the long-



suffering of that University which reckoned itself the chief bulwark of religion. What the townsmen thought about the University was much the same, *mutatis mutandis*. This must be borne in mind in reading Twyne's last paragraphs; his volumes are full of like querulous remarks about the incurable wickedness of townfolk.

Some of Twyne's sentences have been slightly abridged, but nothing is omitted. Some notes are added to make the record more useful to students.

#### TWYNE XXIII. 443.

Touching South Bridge, Oxon, and who ought to repair it, viz., the City of Oxon.

The parish church of St. Michael's at the South Gate of Oxforde was pulled down longe agoe by the Cardinall; no mervayle if other things drop after; for the great South gate itselke is fallen quyte downe of late yeres, which crossed the strete betwixt Dr. Weston his lodginge and the ende of Christ Church Hospital: the little South gate not farre from it, called Watergate (see note 1) hath seene his best dayes and is goinge after, as fast as he can; and now the South bridge hath much adoe to stande. Therefore, insted of better materials to upholde such a worthy and necessary foundation, I have thought good to trimme it up in the meane time with a few records taken out of the citty office and elsewhere; leaving the skanninge and construction thereof to every man's particular judgement, as farre as a matter *de facto*, and no further, may concerne.

The first recorde that as yet I have founde touching the generall reparations of bridges about Oxforde is taken out of the Tower of London, among the letters patent of King Edward III., anno II., dated at New Sarum, Oct. 22, part 2, membrane 18, in these words: "The King, to the mayor, bailiffs, and men of Oxford, greeting. Know ye that we of our especial favour, in aid of the improving and repair of the bridges of the town of Oxford over the waters of Thames and Charwell, which bridges are ruined and broken down to the great peril of the men who cross those bridges, have granted to you that for the next six year you may take, by the hands of those you may appoint to this duty, and for whom you will answer, the following toll from articles of merchandise that are brought to the town; viz.,  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. from each quarter of corn, etc.," and among the rest "one penny from every boat which comes by water laden with marchandise, etc. (see note 2).

Free and open passage by water then was between Oxford and London, as we are able to prove by good records, and there is good hope that ere long it is likely to be so again.

South bridge is not here expressly named, but it is enough that it may be fairly understood: and if this is true, it is not to be supposed that the king would employ the mayor and bailiffs to repair bridges that were none of their own.

The next recorde for the repayinge of this bridge by name is taken from an ancient indenture of lease in these words: "An agreement by which William le Northern, mayor of Oxford, John de Buckingham and Thomas Somerset, bailifs, John Shaw and William Keley, chamberlains, and the whole comminalty of Oxford, grant and dimise to John Leper a piece of land by Coumede in Berks, known as le Briggewrightesplace, opposite the chapel of St. Nicholas, to be held by him with all buildings thereon for the term of his life, rendering yearly to the city a rent of xii.d.; and the said John shall repair and maintain the Bridge of Grantpont both within and without the new gate, with alms to be asked and paid at the said gate, and also at his own charges, and furthermore he shall keep from waste and decay the buildings on Briggewrightesplace. If he fail to pay his rent, or to maintain his buildings, or to keep the bridge in good repair, it shall be lawful for the comminalty of Oxford to re-enter on their property and expel the said John. Given at Oxford, Jan. 20, 50 Ed. III." (See Note 3).

The new gate, also called the tower upon South Bridge, is that place which hath been called since by the name of Friar Bacon's study (I know not why or wherefore), and lately The Folly, whereto is adjoined a drawbridge without it, and the third arch from that tower is the furthestmost extent that way of the towne boundes, under which the mayor passeth in his perambulation of the Citty frawnchises, and so goeth up the water by Walshman's mede, including so much of Grauntpont (in which is the South Bridge) in his perambulation as parcel of the Citty liberties; and so farre (I suppose) this John Leper was bound here by his lease to maintayne that parcell of Grauntpont or Southbridge, when it is said here that the said John shall maintayne Grauntpont bridge at his own charges "both within and without the new gate"; that is to say to the third arch beyond that new gate and no further.

Briggewrightesplace or St. Nicholas yarde or the Hermitage is a little parcele of groundes walled

upon the highwayside, over against a little cottage built of stone called St. Nicholas chappell, being in the town tenure, which they held of the Abbey of Abingdon, so called because it belonged to him whom the town appoynted to have a care and oversyght of doing necessary reparations to that bridge so farre as their boundes extended.

Thirdly, then, as no man can deny that the tower upon Southbridge is parcell thereof, so it appeareth upon the accounts of one Richard de Berkele and Richard de Stokes, being the town chamberlains in the fourth yere of Edward II., that then the town repaired that gate or tower; the particulars standing there upon the account are these: "Item for a piece of timber, brought to repair the New Gate upon Grandpont, 12d. Item, paid for making a new bolt for the same gate, 2s. Item, paid to a carpentar for fixing the said bolt on the said gate and for mending defects of the gate, 6d. Paid for iron bought at Deddington, and to a smith for 'gaddis' made from the same iron for the said gate, 14d."

Again, in the account of townes chamberlains afterwards, namely, anno 23 Ric. II., concerning the reparations of the said gate and arches about it, thus I find: "Item for one stone outside the new gate, 5d. Item, for keeping watch at the gates there, 18d. Item, for another watch there in the time of King Henry [IV.], 2s. 5d. Item, for the making of an arch at the bridge there, 6d." (See Note 4.)

Besides the benefit of Briggewrightesplace there was another allowance towards the mainetenance of this bridge, as I find it upon the Chamberlain's accounts enrolled in the Mayor's Court upon Friday next before the feast of St. Augustin, in the nineteenth yere of Edward II., in these words: "John de Brehulle was appointed to the office of the care of the bridge of Grantpond from the feast of St. John, in the nineteenth year, to the same feast in the next year, and Richard de Brugewauter was appointed as the labourer and servant under the said John for the same time; their sureties were Stephen de Adynton and John de la Wyke." Again, at the Mayor's Court held Friday before the feast of St. Dunstan, 17 Ed. III., I find these words: "At this Court John le Harpou of Headington was chosen for the custody of the bridge of Grantpont, in the place of John Silvestre, who died; and he took his oath and produced as his guarantees for his good and faithful behavjour in the said

office John de la Wyke, John de Padebury, and Bernard de Kenington, who in the presence of the Mayor undertook upon themselves that the said John le Harpou would well and truly serve in the said office." (See Note 5).

Here you see a keeper appointed for the nonce by the authority of the Mayor's Court to looke to the reparations of that bridge, and the like was appointed for East Bridge, called by the name of Pety-pount, and both were under the Townes jurisdiction. (See Note 6.)

Fifthly, if I be not deceived, there was another allowance toward the repairing of this bridge, namely, the profit from a schole or hall within the University, which the town purchased, and applied it to this purpose, and for a neede I thinke I could tell where it stood, but howe it hath byn imbezeled away it is past my cunning to utter. The poynt itself standeth enrolled upon the Towne Chamberlain's accounts, anno 37 Ed. III., in these words: "Paid to the Lermite of Grauntpount towards the repair of Southbridge from a school bought by the chamberlains of the Comminalty, 13s. 4d." (See Note 7.)

Sixthly, therefore, no mervayle if the legacies bestowed in those days upon such uses, and, namely, upon the repayringe of that bridge, were especially committed and reposed to the trust of the town officers in that poynt. This appeareth in the citty office in a great booke of wills of burgesses of this town; by name in Richard Selewode his will (fol. 48), which was made upon a Friday next before the feast of St. John before the Latin Gate, 23 Ed. III., A.D. 1349, in these words: "I leave to Sybil, my wife, a tenement in St. Edward's street opposite my tenement called Brokenesaid for her life, and after her death let it remain to the mayor and aldermen, that it may be sold and the money expended on repairing Southbridge." Again, in the same book, fol. 23, in the will of Thomas Leigh, sometime town clerk, A.D. 1342: "And if the said Elizabeth die without issue, I will that the said messuages be sold and South Bridge repaired with the money, and that the mayor sell the said messuages and shop." (See Note 8.)

Seventhly, in another account of the Towne Chamberlanes in 7 Hen. IV., A.D. 1405, I find this particular account of the reparations of the same bridge, whose title is this in the margent of the roll, "Expenses about the bridge at the new gate." Then follow the particulars: "Paid at one time for the

making of the said bridge, 5s. 4d.; and for two 'gietys' of timber bought of John Brampton, 2s.; and for three 'shides' bought of John Shawe jun., 3s. 8d.; and for one 'shide' bought of Walter Benham, 8d.; and for two 'shides' bought of John Malton, 2s. 4d.; and for another 'shide' of timber bought for planks, 6s.; to workmen called sawyers, 17d.; other costs, 3d.; paid to John Porter and his companions for their labour about the timber, 11d.; to a labourer for cleaning the bridge, 4d.; paid to two workmen called sawyers at other times, 8d.; to a carpenter, 15d.; to the same carpenter, 10d.; to Roger carpenter over the same task, 3s. 4½d.; paid to two labourers for chalk and paving, 8d.; for iron instruments called 'crampys' in connection with the rayles, 7d.; to a mason over the same task, 4d.; to Richard Plummer for lead, 7½d.; to the same Richard for sawder, 3s. 0½d.; for his work, 6d.; for a tree called an elm, given to the said bridge by Peter Beseells, 6d." (See Note 9.)

Eighthly, in the like account made by the chamberlains 19 Sep. 17 Hen. VIII., 1525, I find thus: "Reparations done upon the Southbridge, first for 3 plankes, II s.; item for two pieces of timber to keepe in the gravell about the said bridge, VIIId.; item for the carriage of the timber, IVd.; item for the laying of the timber, XIIId."

Ninthly, in a great book 'n the Citty office, conteynynge the actes of the common councells, fol. 242, it is thus enrolled: "19 July, 24 Eliz., it is agreed that the foundation of the Southbridge, so far as belongeth to this city, shall be repayred and amended with convenient speede at the charge of this citty; Will. Noble being mayor, James Robynson, John William, baylives."

Again in the same book, fol. 269: "July 17, 26 Eliz.; it is agreed that the Southbridge from Mr. Smith's house unto the tower shall be enlarged with timber worke and rayled on every side, so that this citty shall only disburse the one halfe of the charges; and this is granted at the motion of Mr. Dr. Lloyd, who promiseth to disburse the other moietie. Will. Furnesse being mayor, Jo. Dennys, Hen. Dodewell, baylives."

Again in the same book, fol. 280: "Oct. 6, 27 Eliz.; it was agreed that the Southbridge shall be enlarged and rayled from the place where the worke is left unto the pale of Mr. Jo. Smithe's backesyd, and further if neede be, at the charges of Mr. Dr. Lloyd for the one halfe and the other

halfe at the charges of this citty; the which half Mr. Dr. Lloyd doth offer to pay before hande."

These are the acts of common councell, and I doubt not but in the chamberlaines accounts the particulars of these expenses would, and doe, plainly and evidently appear.

From all which premises (me thinkes) it may be thus deduced, that Southbridge was within the Town liberties. If it was not, how could they make acts of common council of that which appertained not unto them? For heretofore, and not many years since also, they used to have here certayne annual officers (and it was a very good order and I mervayle how it ceased) to survey all manner of decayes within the liberties, either in highwayes, bridges, walls, mounds, gutters, houses and the like, and to present them to the mayor's court for convenient redresse, from which office they were styled "surveyors of nuisances" (*superiores novermentorum*). (See Note 10.)

If South bridge was not within the Town liberties, I doe not see by what authority the Town jury should present butchers for emptionge of beastes entrayles at that bridge, or why the town coroner should sett there and impanell a jury uppon any occasion, as still he useth to doe, or why the inhabitants dwelling there by the bridge should be seized for subsidies and fifteenes with the towne, and pay it unto the towne officers and to no other; all which the Towne used (when time was) for proofes to drawe in Halywell within the compasse of the Towne liberties; or why the Town jury should present thus of a little piece of ground lying on the east side of the sayde bridge, called now and anciently Lamberdeslande, in these words: "Also they say that the common soil at Lamberdeslande is blocked and choked with willows put there and dung by John Wotton, to the great nuisance, etc.," as it appeareth on the presentment of the south-east warde, etc.

Therefore it plainly appeareth by whom the bridge is to be repaired, as well as who did repayre it *de facto*. Although I know that 'n a common councell held (if I be not deceaved) in the last vere of Mr. Alderman Potter's mayorly it was ordered that Mr. Radcliffe, the Towne Clerk, should address Mr. Vice-Chancellor of the University to certifie him that neither the reparation of the whole Southbridge nor yet any part thereof did belong unto the citty; of which assertion you may judge out of the premises now laid down. I know also that there

is extant a French recorde in the Towne Office touching the boundes of the citty liberties, begining thus: "Ceaux sont les boundes en la present de la fraunchise de la ville d'Oxenford" (see Note 11), where the Town liberties are bounded southwards only as farre as Denchesworth bowe or arch, built over a little streame called Shirelake, devidinge Oxfordshire from Berkeshire on this side of Mr. Pinke's house the brewer, and no further. But seinge that record carrieth no warrant with it at all, or of the making thereof otherwise than to fetch in Halywell (as it plainly appeareth) within the Towne liberties, then in question, and because it as plainly appeareth out of the premises that both before and since the time of the makinge of that recorde the saide Southbridge hath byn repayed by the Towne, I suppose that so many recordes which here have byn alleadged already will be able to preponderate that one sole recorde, though it were not suspected at all, as indeed it is.

But perhaps they will easily grant that Southbridge is within the Towne liberties, but they reply that they are not to repayre every thinge within their liberties; for so they should repayre many wayes and bridges more than they doe, consideringe that their liberties for waftes and strayses and felons' gooddes extend as farre as Witham and Godstowe Bridge, for which notwithstanding they are not to be tied to reparations of bridges and highwayes so farre for that cause. By this reason they may as well acquitt themselves from the reparation of Hithebridge and Charewell bridge by Magdalen College, so far as their liberties extend, which notwithstanding they spare not to repayre; and so they should Southbridge (although it lie in another shire) so far as their liberties doe extend; otherwise I see no reason why Barkeshire men may not challenge all manner of liberties uppon that bridge, because it is not in Oxfordshire, though within Oxford liberties. Finally the record before cited saith that "it pertains to the Mayor and bailiffs that all nuisances committed within the said liberty should be amended according to custom"; I say either to repayre them or cause them to be repayed; and therefore they are still liable to that reparations which of duety they have usually done heretofore.

Memorandum concerning Southbridge, Oxon: being in great decay for a long while together and nothinge knowne who should repayre it, the two shires, viz. Oxon and Berks presenting one another at every assise, at length, Anno Domini 1628 it happened that a rich merchant of London (one

Browne) dienge, and Sir Henry Martyn, sometime fellow of Newe College in Oxon being then judge of the prerogative court, the said Sir Henry sent downe to Oxford the sum of £100, reserved *in pio* *usus* out of Browne's goodes, to be bestowed uppon the highwayes adjacent unto Oxford, according to the disposall and discretion of two doctors, viz., Mr. Dr. Bancroft of University College, and Mr. Dr. Juxon, President of St. John's College, who in consideration of the great decay of that bridge and the instant necessitie of the reparation thereof, neglected on all sides, were resolved to lay forth that money uppon the reparation of the said bridge. Dr. Bancroft had then purchased the moiety of East Wyke, which is held by lease from University College, in his tenant's name, and built there a new house on the east side of the High way now known by the name of the White House, about a quarter of a mile beyond the Southbridge, which possibly was the reason why he was made a trusty for the disposal and laying out of that £100. In the meane time, having gotten better enformation and that indeede the Towne or Citty of Oxford had heretofore repayed it and consequently should doe so still, they surceased a while, and thought to employ that money otherwise; until at last Sir Henry Martin, repayinge down hither to Oxford that summer to visitt his brother then dwellinge at Carfoxe, further conference was had about this businesse, and though he was fully enformed that the towne of Oxford should repayre that bridge, yet considering the present unabilitie of the Citty, beinge then also assessed for the water workes, and that the prooffe of this duety against the city would prove a tedious businesse (though in it selfe very cleare) he gave order to stoppe all further enquirie for the present, and without any more adoee that the said money should be employed only uppon the reparation of the said bridge, which was begun in the yeare 1628 and finished in the yeare 1629, the drawe-bridge without Fryar Bacon's stud<sup>e</sup> fallinge downe and a teeme of horses with a dunge cart fallinge through (which I sawe with mine owne eyes) whilst the masons were at worke uppon the bridge. And so it was repayed at that time, it beinge conceived that such a reparation thereof could not be any way prejudicial hereafter to the Universitie for settinge men to worke thereuppon, etc.; and in the repayringe thereof they stopped up one arch quite next unto Mr. Pinke's house, the brewer, and levelled the causeway for making of a wharfe for the barges to come thither, and filled up the river with earth for that purpose as far as Lumbard's land (Note 12).

Aug. 19 in that yere, namely, 1629, the King and

Queene came from Barton by Abington in progress over that bridge, and so thorough the city of Oxford to Wodstoke, and uppon the 27th of the same moneth they came backe from Wodstocke towarde Oxorde againe, the Mayor and Aldermen and other citizens meetinge the King about Greene Ditch and presentinge to him a fayre gilt bowl and a payre of gloves to the Queene. So the King and Queene came and veiwed Wadham Colledge, and then they came to the Universitie library and went up uppon the leades, and thence they came to Merton Colledge and were entertayned there by Sir Nathaniell Brent, warden of that colledge, at a banquet, who was knighted the Sunday before at Woodstocke; and there in the warden's gallery Sir William Spenser was knighted; and after all this the Kinge and Queene went that night over Southbridge again to Barton, etc. The motion about pullinge downe the residue of Cattedreaste happened when the King and Queene was uppon the leades of the schools, etc. (Then, in other ink) L. Viscount Dorchester, the chiefe furdurer thereof, who died before any thinge was done therein. (Note 13).

Note also that all the while that the saide Southbridge lay ruinous and unrepayred, much enquiry beinge made who should repayre it, nothing could be known, and everything hushed up as a great mysticall matter and nothing could be discovered thereof, untill uppon the great complaint of the Judges still in their circuit there was a jury impanelled to enquire about that poynt, who notwithstanding could find nothing else but that by Ratcliff the Towne-clark's information or suggestion, upon a distick that they founde in my booke of the Antiquitie of Oxford, among the Miscellanea, the distick being

*Exedris portam qua recta vergit ad austrum;  
Claymundi nummis compita strata vides.*

The jury being informed that the last who repayred that bridge and causeway was Dr. Claymund, sometime president of Corpus Christi College, they presented that the President of Corpus Christi College was to repayre that bridge; whereuppon Mr. Dr. Anyan, then president, came to the judges and certified them howe the case stood, namely, that Dr. Claymund did many pious workes about the Towne and University out of charity and so forth, wherewith notwithstanding neither the Colledge nor yet the presidents, his successors, ought to be charged, and so was dismissed and acquitted of that presentment; and this was all that could be found about that matter; for the Towne would acknowledge nothings.

But as soone as the saide Bridge was repayred,

after that manner as I have here showed, and all thinges and questions were ended about that matter, then every man and inhabitant thereabouts, as Richardson the botemaker and old Far, now an almesman at Bartholomewes, and diverse others in my knowing, could tell, and openly confessed that they knewe it longe agoo and very well, that the Towne allwayes used to repayre the said bridge, and could tell me many particulars about it, and the names of the chamberlaines in whose time it was done, that were yet living and the like. Whereuppon, being asked by me why they knowing so much, would not disclose it and make it knowne, when time was, for the publike satisfaction of both the bodies, and the maintenance of the truth in such a case, "Disclose it," quoth they, and every one of them, "Should we disclose it, a thinge (do you see) that made against the Towne." And this was the goodly defence that these simple creatures made for the concealment of that matter. Whereof I thought good to give notice here occasionally in this place, and that in all other cases there must be no other dealinges looked for at the handes even of the best of them, still suppressing and concealinge every thing that may touch them and seeking to divert it and turne it uppon the University, if they can, whereas they are conscious to themselves, if they please, that it is otherwise, and that their own records if they would be pleased to peruse them, are sufficient witness against them.

Book of the accounts of the Vice-Chancellor, 1570: "Paid to Mr. Standishe for expenses in making a search in the Tower of London about repairing the bridges of Oxford, namely, to whom that duty belongs, and who built and repaired in time past, 24s."

It seems that the town did begin at that time to charge the Universitie with the reparation of some of the bridges, and perhaps with that of Southbridge.

Also the accounts for 1578: "Paid to Dr. Yeldard for dinner given to Sir John Fettyplace knight and others, when they came to view the Southbridge, 16s."

Note 1.—John Weston, Canon of Christ Church, Professor of Hebrew, died July 1632. No doubt his lodging was in the south-west corner of Christ Church. The Hospital or Almshouse was the stone building opposite Christ Church running north from Brewer's Street. Watergate or Little Gate was at the south end of Little Bailey, now called St. Ebbe's Street, and was south of St. Ebbe's church.

Note 2.—This may be found in the Calendar of

the Patent Rolls of Edw. III., p. 326. The details of the grant are of no importance; there was a fixed standard of customs for all towns that obtained a grant of *portage*.

Note 3.—The Latin original is in Twyne 23, p. 167; it was copied by Twyne from the town archives. In Twyne 23, p. 390, is an earlier deed of 39 Ed. III., by which the mayor and communalty grant to John Braye, of Shiplake, hermit, a lease of a piece of land in Swynesahull, "opposite the chapel of St. Nicholas," called "St. Nicholas Yerde." The conditions are the same as in the deed of 50 Ed. III. John Leper may also have been a hermit, though he is not so called in the deed. It will be noticed below in a record quoted by Twyne that in 37 Ed. III. the repairs of the bridge were performed by a hermit. An early map of Grandpont, reproduced in vol. 1 of the B.N.C. Tercentenary volumes, shows St. Nicholas chapel on the west, and the Hermitage on the east side of the Abingdon Road, two or three hundred yards south of Folly Bridge. There is nothing to show how the town obtained possession of this property. The language of Twyne implies that the name "Friar Bacon's Study" was an innovation, and not based on any history or tradition. It might be concluded from the map or drawing just mentioned that the gate had no tower above it until the end of the fifteenth century; but the town records mention the repair of "the tower at New Gate" in 1330, and the tower upon South Bridge is mentioned about 1450. The "third arch" from the tower lay about 80 yards to the south of it, for South Bridge at this point consisted of a solid bank pierced here and there with arches.

Note 4.—The fact that in this year (1399) there was a special charge of keeping watch on South Bridge shows that usually there was no watch there. Extracts from the Chamberlain's accounts (now lost) are in Twyne 23, pp. 226-248.

Note 5.—These entries may be found in Twyne 23, pp. 320 and 322, taken from the rolls of the Mayor's Courts, now lost.

Note 6.—The records about Petypount or East Bridge are that on Friday, Nov. 27, 1321, Hugh Rose of Hedyngdon was admitted to the custody of Petypount, and took an oath that he would faithfully repair the bridge with alms and legacies (Twyne 23, 317). On July 27, 1358, the communalty granted to Nicholas Wadekyns, hermit, the custody of Pettypont (Twyne 23, 340).

Note 7.—See Twyne 23, p. 233.

Note 8.—See Liber Albus, pp. 27 and 42, printed 1909.

Note 9.—See Twyne 23, p. 363.

Note 10.—Twyne is mistaken here. The presenting of public nuisances was at the view of frank pledge, not in the mayor's court, and was done by the public, not by town officers. The four "surveyors of nuisances" elected each year were to survey nuisances which one individual had committed against another, such as building upon his wall or opening windows upon his property. The four would examine the site and give their verdict.

Note 11.—St. Frideswide's charters, No. 113, in the Bodleian: Denchworth Bow was an arch at, or near, No. 34, St. Aldate's, crossing a branch of the Thames which was the boundary between Oxfordshire and Berkshire. The Sheriff's jurisdiction ended at Denchworth Bow, but as far as is known the Mayor's jurisdiction always reached to the further end of Southbridge.

Note 12.—"The arch next unto Mr. Pinke's house" apparently means Denchworth Bow. It seems from this passage that the ditch called Shirelake from Denchworth Bow towards Christ Church Meadow was filled up at this time. On the west side of the road Shirelake was not filled up until some sixty years ago.

Note 13.—Wood has borrowed much of this paragraph in his *Annals*.

# A TRIAL FOR MURDER IN 1634.

In the Middle Ages all members of the University were clergy or clerks, receiving the tonsure when they were admitted; therefore, when they were guilty of felony they were able to claim "benefit of clergy"; if they were convicted the bishop would demand that they should be surrendered to him, and instead of being hanged they would be imprisoned in the bishop's prison. When it is said that all members of the University were clergy, it must not be understood that they were all bishops, priests or deacons, much less that they all intended to undertake parish work. Of those who could claim benefit of clergy throughout England, probably not a quarter were in higher or holy orders, and not a tenth were parish priests. They merely remained clerks and advanced to no higher orders, some becoming architects, some doctors, some schoolmasters; and if they were not in higher orders they could, of course, marry; but they always remained clergy. In the fifteenth century the Bishop of Lincoln had occasion to give a list of the clergy whom he had in his prison at Banbury; one was a carpenter, another a tradesman, and so on.

But in 1405 the University of Oxford obtained a further privilege. The King by charter granted that if one of the clerks of the University, or any servant or attendant of the halls and colleges, was accused of felony, he might be tried by a special judge appointed by the University, called the Steward of the University, and that the jury of twelve was to be formed as follows: The sheriff would summon 18 from the county, the beadle would summon 18 from the University, and from this total the jury would be taken. It seems also that this court was allowed to try cases of treason; this was a high privilege, for treason was so great a crime that to claim benefit of clergy was of no avail.

Whether Oxford clerks were ever tried before the Steward in early times, or how often they were tried, we do not know. As long as the privilege of the clergy lasted, the court was more for the advantage of the attendants of colleges than for the clerks themselves. But when "benefit of clergy" was abolished in the reign of Henry VIII., the Steward's court became more important. The following record, taken from Twyne, vol. 24, p. 480, describes the holding of this court in 1634. The morning seems to have been devoted to ceremonies; then came a dinner at the Star, now the Clarendon; and the afternoon sufficed for the hearing of two charges of murder. It is said that if a member of the University at this day was accused of felony,

he might claim to be tried by the Steward; but doubtless he would have to pay the expense incurred; it is now more than a century since the court has been held.

"Tuesday, Aug. 28, 1634, an assises held at Oxford for the tryall of John Dunne, M.A., of Christchurch, for supposinge to have killed a little boy called Humfrey Dunt, a basket maker's son of Grampoole; and of John Goffe, M.A., and fellow of Magdalen College, for being supposed to have killed one Joseph Boys, a chaplaine of that house. Mr. Unton Croke, under stewarde of the Universitie, did sett judge by commission. There were two several commissions for those two tryalls; which being read in the Lower Gild Hall where the assises were kept, the Vice-Chancellor and the doctors being there present in their robes and some masters in their white minied hooddes, first the said steward made a short speech unto the bench in Latin by way of congratulation that the Universitie liberties were so well preserved. Then afterwards he gave the charge to the jury; and then he proceeded to the arraignment of the prisoners at the barre; and then they broke up and went all to dinner to the signe of the Starre. After dinner they came to the hall againe in their robes as before, about two o'clock, and proceeded further to the tryall first of John Dunne, who was acquitted; then of John Goffe, who was likewise acquitted; and then at 6 or 7 of the clocke the assises was ended, which was the greatest for companie that ever I sawe in Oxford. The under-sheriff attended there with ten or twelve of the sheriffes men with their javelyns in their hands, as at the county assises. In the morning the Vice-Chancellor and the doctors and some masters met all at St. Mary's, whither the Steward also repayred unto them; and from thence they came all up the streete being a very great companie, the Vice-Chancellor and the Stewarde goinge foremost, and before them the under-sheriff went bareheaded, the sheriffs men going before him, and so they were conducted to the hall. The Vice-Chancellor, who was then Dr. Pinke, Warden of New College, sate at the right hand of the Steward and above him, but both under the King's Arms, as near as could be. Mr. Dun excepted against one of the privileged jurie, viz., John Blakegrove, M.A., dwelling in St. Giles' parish, and against another of the county whose name was Child, as I remember. At Mr. Dun's acquittal the world was not well satisfied."

# TOWN & UNIVERSITY, 1609-1612.

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The following, taken from Twyne, v. 374, is a gem which needs no commendation. The picture of the Vice-Chancellor and Mayor walking hand in hand, and the former when he reached Carfax, unable to bear the indignity any more, the account of my lord Knolles, who felt that his honour was touched when it was suggested that he could not read an old record, and of the Mayor, who was persecuted for righteousness sake, and left St. Martin's and "frequented St. Mary's church, etc." (what a delicious "etc."), will be enjoyed by those who appreciate unconscious humour. From this small beginning arose one of those contests between Town and University which might be expected in the Middle Ages every 30 or 40 years. In 1612 the University drew up its grievances against the Town, and the Town drew up what Twyne calls "pretended grievances" against the University. The position between the Town and University was, and always had been, logically impossible; in Oxford and Cambridge supreme power on the same matters, in the same spot, and to a great extent over the same people, was given to two different bodies, the Freeman of the Town and the University; but with that unwillingness to look facts in the face which was characteristic of the Middle Ages, they pretended from the days of Edward I. onwards that there was no contradiction, but the patching from time to time of the arrangement that had been set up did not remedy the bad foundation on which it stood.

"When Dr. Kinge, Dean of Christ Church, was Vice-Chancellor, there happened to be a quarter sessions about Christmas, 1609, whereat Sir David Williams, who was one of the circuiting judges for Oxfordshire, was present in the upper Gildhall; unto which also came the mayor of the towne, one

Alderman Harris, whom the judge placed at his right hand; and the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Kinge, cominge in, a while after, did offer also to set at the judge's right hand, and would have displaced the mayor; which the judge would not suffer, allowinge of the Mayor's placinge, and that it was due unto him and not to the Vice-Chancellor. Whereupon the Vice-Chancellor made no stirre about it then, but sate there all the while below the mayor. And when they rose from the bench and were come down into the street, goeing up towarde Carfax with a purpose to dine all together at the Starre, the judge did again cause the mayor to take the hand of the Vice-Chancellor; where upon, about Alderman Wright, his house, beinge a corner house at Carfoxe, the Vice-Chancellor would goe no further, but called back the Bedell and turned downeward to Christ Church. Whereupon the judge asked him, sayinge, "What! Mr. Vice-Chancellor, will not you dine with us?" unto which the Vice-Chancellor replied that he could have a dinner at home at Christ Church, and takinge no other leave, departed and went home to Christ Church and came no more to that sessions at that time. After which time the mayors did begin to expect the precedence of the Vice-Chancellor, and sometimes they had it and sometimes not. And this was the reason why afterwards the said Dr. Kinge, then bishop of London, and Sir David Williams, were summoned before the Council for the discussion of that point of precedence between the Vice-Chancellor and the mayor; though after that time of the quarter sessions aforesaide, wherein this matter happened, the said Sir David Williams never came this circuit any more, but being presently sent for up to the Lords of the Council, and there questioned about this his doeing and much blamed



for the same, was disposed to another circuit in Wales.

Nowe what befell the mayor, Thomas Harris, afterwarde who was put upon this against his will by the judge, you shall understand that because in his mayoralty he gave way too easily for the Towne, alienatinge away the site of the Austin Fryers to Mr. Wadham for the foundation of his college, without reserving any yearly dinner for the Towne, as it is at New College, and also for certain words which he had lett fall in their Counsell House against my Lord Knolles, then their Steward, about of a readinge of a certain record which he said was so old and hard to read that his lordship could scarce read it, his lordship being incensed therat as a thinge spoken to his dishonour, he the said alderman after the time of his mayoralty was disfranchised by the Towne and put out of his aldermanship and another chosen in his place; whereupon he frequented St. Mary's church, etc., and the University conceiving that he was used the harder for their sakes, wrote to the Lord Knolles about it, whose answer in letter thereunto was read in a convocation held 12 March, 1612, though it be not registered; wherein among other things he called him 'base mechanicke,' etc., but at length he was restored again with much adoce."

"The grievances which were pretended to have been offered by the University to the City, exhibited by the citizens of Oxford June 11, 1612, before the Lords of the Privy Council at the counsell table in Whytehall.

1. When the Bailiffs of Oxford go in the night to search for felons, pursue hues and cries, and do other services pertaining to bailiffs and enjoined by Act of Parliament, the Vice-Chancellor conventeth (=summons) them and proceedeth to the fining and imprisoning of them for so doing without the licence of the Vice-Chancellor.

2. The University have lately upon record claimed the custody of the city and power to make statutes to bind the citizens. The Vice-Chancellor accordingly did examine the mayor and others of the city what conferences and consultations were had about the affairs of the city in the counsell house, which all of the counsell are sworne to keep secret.

3. The University hath discommoned and disbarred from all trade and commerce with the University, or any privileged men, the late mayor, the recorder, two of the mayor's assistants, one of the late bailiffs, and another citizen, and sett this up in papers upon the doores of St. Mary's church in

the High Street and upon the walls in colleges in very hostile manner, publishing to all men that the said parties had very haynously misbehaved themselves against the universitie; yet they never were convicted of any offence nor most of them ever convicted or charged with any nor any of them had done anything but what to their duetie appertayned, as they hope shall appeare.

4. The University doth sett up men of all trades, not beinge free of the city, to exercise their trades, yea diverse such as have not byn brought up as apprentices in those trades, none of which pay scot or lott or beare other charges with citizens and tradesmen; this is a loss to the Crowne and to the city, neither gaineth honour or ornament to the Universitie.

5. The University giveth privilege to men of trades upon pretence of their being servants to colleges, and so exempt their goods from subsidies and fifteens (for the decrease whereof the city received from the Lords of the Counsell letters of sharpe blame), and also from the government of the mayor and contribution to the charges of the City to the hurt both of the Crown and City.

6. All privileged persons being 200 families housed in the City and suburbs, and 1,000 persons at least, to whom privilege is allowed, are avowed by the University as men free from the powers of the Sessions of the Peace, and so against those persons the proceedings of justice are hindered.

7. Where citizens are for matters spiritual under the jurisdiction of the Ordinary, as for temporall matters under the lawe of the lande, Mr. Proctors of the University usurpe jurisdiction spiritual over the citizens for matters of incontinency, and use that otherwise than is used towards other subjects of ordinaries there or elsewhere, viz., by imprisonment tyll payment of mulcts and fines such as themselves please to sett down for themselves, and that oftentimes only upon suspicion or accusation before or without either conviction or confession, nay, refusing purgation upon oath where is only suspicion or accusation.

8. That Mr. Proctors do in the night break open and enter into the houses of well demeaning citizens upon sight of a candle burning or other like occasions, and carry them to prison, and also upon meeting them in the streets in the night imprison them till they pay such summes of money as they require."

"Grievances done to the University by the citizens and likewise exhibited at the Counsell table:

1. The bailiffs take the fee-farm of the city, claim

the fines imposed at Quarter Sessions and in the Court Leets of the University, and at their pleasures remit the same to the offenders to the manifest hindrance of justice.

2. They have erected cottages to the number of 150 to the great burden and charge of the University; the people inhabiting the same do spoil and steal the king's woods to the number of 500 loads by the year.

3. They will take no order for the relief of the poor, having byn often moved thereto by the Vice-Chancellor and governors of the colleges and halls.

4. They licence ale houses to the number of 104, to the scandal of the University, the increase of drunkenness, and corruption of manners.

5. They block the water courses and pen the waters to serve their mills and thereby drown many grounds and meadows lying by the waterside.

6. The mayor and 82 burgesses refuse to take the oath to keep the liberties and customs of the University, to which they are bound by charter, and have done time out of mind until 35 years last past.

7. Such of their body as tender the good peace and quiett of both bodies they remove out of their places and disgrace them and admitt the most factious.

8. They have erected a corporation of slatters, to the great prejudice of our priviledges, which we desire to be cancelled, and that it be not lawful for them to make any such corporations.

10. They question the precedency of the Vice-Chancellor, preferring the mayor before him.

11. They suffer signs to be set up to ale houses.

12. They take the horses of priviledged persons for posthorses contrary to the orders of the Council in the 17th year of Queen Elizabeth.

13. They force priviledged persons to grind at their mills."

In answer to the grievances of the Town and the University the lords of the Privy Council sent certain orders, of which the substance is printed below, but they left matters much as before; once more the Mayor was stated to be absolutely independent of the Chancellor, and once more it was stated that the Chancellor might in a moment reduce the Mayor to impotence by granting privilege to anyone whom the Mayor wished to punish; and finally both parties were exhorted to live in amity. It is characteristic of the Middle Ages. They were unwilling to grapple with the case and admit that a mistake had been made in the past.

It is said that Englishmen like a constitution that is illogical and can somehow make it work; but the disadvantage of an illogical and inconsistent constitution is that there are those whom my lords call "factious persons," and such find therein an opening for mischief. In the days of Charles I. on each side men of faction could denounce their opponents as breakers of the constitution in the matter of Ship Money; each could appeal with equal right to precedents in the past, for the constitution in this matter, as in many others, was vague. The relative powers of the Lords and Commons were, and still are, vague, and perhaps contradictory; and in like manner the church in the Middle Ages seems at one moment quite independent, and at another moment we find the king giving most peremptory orders to bishops; the constitution was not settled, and they were too indolent to settle it.

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The orders of the Lord of the Council, July 18, 1612. (See in full in Ogle's *Royal Letters to Oxford*, p. 345).

1. The night watch of the Town doth solely belong to the University, and is to be kept by the Proctors. But for as much as every common person ought to yield assistance when search for felons, hues and cries and such like services do happen, it is thought convenient and ordered that in all cases of search for felons and hues and cries to be freshly pursued according to law both the University and the City shall join together and do their utmost to find out the offenders, who may be hid in colleges and priviledged places as well as in private houses; for which purpose the City is to give notice to the University and the University to the City. And as for other public services pertaining to the office of the bailiffs, concerning the government of the City only wherein the University is not interested, it is ordered that if upon urgent cause of such service the bailiffs shall have occasion to walk within their own liberties at night time, the Proctors do not molest them, so as, being demanded, they alledge a true and just cause of their so walking by night, and go not about by a new practice to encroach upon the liberties of the University. But if they shall pretend any false cause for disorders sake, then they shall be subject to the correction of the Vice-Chancellor.

2. The University hath not the custody of the City nor power over any citizen further than is secured by charter or custom in special causes

where it hath a relation or mixture with the government of the University.

3. The custom of discomoning is not in itself unlawful, but is the exercise of a lawful authority over such as be of the University by way of prohibition. Nevertheless, it is ordered that if the persons now discomoned submit themselves and make satisfaction to the University publicly in the Convocation house within 40 days, they shall be restored again to the favour of the University. And in future it is advised that discomoning, being one of the severest censures that can be inflicted on those whose means of living depend upon trade, shall be used very sparingly and never but upon great and special causes.

4. As for the fourth grievance of the Town, in the 17th year of Queen Elizabeth, when this liberty was denied to the University by the City, there were produced Letters Patent of April 1, 14 Hen. VIII., and a composition between the Town and the University in the days of Edw. I., granting to privileged persons liberty to buy and sell freely; upon perusal of which the said privilege of the University was then affirmed; so now it is ordered that the same liberty shall be enjoyed, provided that the said privileged persons be subject to all scott and lott and other charges, as like occupiers of the said City be, for the said merchandises.

5. The University may give privilege to any persons declared to be privileged by composition between the University and the City, Jan. 23, 37 Hen. VI.; but because the City may be thereby much weakened and unable to sustain the taxes imposed upon it, it is ordered that the University be very sparing in the granting of privilege to any men of trade or occupation, but upon lawful and true pretence.

6. By charter of Edw. I. and another of July 15, 14 Ric. II., the Chancellor of the University has cognisance of all manner of personal pleas, etc., where one party is a clerk or privileged person; and by charter of 14 Hen. VIII. and Act of Parliament of 13 Eliz., the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor are justices of peace. The inference, therefore, that privileged persons are exempt from all laws, and that justice is hindered, is weak and insufficient.

Orders to the grievances done to the University.

7. If the bailiffs remit fines imposed at Quarter

Sessions and at the Court Leet they are to be severely punished.

8. As for the second and third articles, and the fourth, that the City hath suffered signs to be set up to alehouses as if they were inns and hath penned the water courses their lordships recommend the care thereof to the Rt. Hon. Lord Ellesmere, Chancellor of the University, and the Lord Knolles, High Steward of the said City, to cause the same to be reformed according to the rules of law and good government.

9. Whereas by ancient deeds from the time of Edw. I. the Mayor and 62 burgesses are bound to take the oath to observe the liberties of the University, but within the last 35 years the Mayor and two bailiffs have alone taken the oath, it is ordered that from henceforth when the Mayor and bailiffs take the oath in the church of St. Maries immediately after the feast of St. Michael and before the Mayor's entry into the execution of his office, the Mayor shall give warning to 60 more of the burgesses of the better sort to be likewise present, who shall not fail at their peril to repayr thither, and shall take the oath mentioned in the Counsell's order of the 17th year of Queen Elizabeth.

10. The corporation of slatters, erected to the prejudice of the University, disliked also altogether by the City, shall be dissolved, and their charter cancelled.

11. It is thought agreeable to reason that, as in time past, the Mayor give precedency to the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor, though it be true that the authority of the Mayor is in his kinde absolute also and in no way subordinate unto the other.

12. Whereas it is complained that the citizens compel privileged persons to grinde at their mills, and take their horses for post horses, by charter of 41 Hen. VIII. they have exemption from this.

Their lordships admonish all men both of the City and of the University to carry themselves in such sort one towards another as they seek not to encroach within the boundes of each others jurisdiction, but that each of them content themselves with that authority and those privileges which lawfully belong unto them, endeavouring by all means to preserve mutual love and friendship and not to cherish faction or factious persons, such as under pretence of zeal and service to the party whereunto they adhere do nothings but disturbe the general quiett and peace both of University and City.

# THE MAYOR OF OXFORD AT THE CORONATION OF EDWARD IV.

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The following is a contemporary account of the coronation of Edward IV., written by Thomas Tanfield, town clerk of Oxford; the English is antiquated, as might be expected, but it will not puzzle a careful reader. It is taken from Twyne IV. 132, and he in turn took it from "an old book in the City Records before which there is a Calendar and a Crucifixe"; this book was never seen by Anthony Wood, and we may safely assert that it perished 250 years ago.

At the coronation of the king, the Mayor and men of Oxford had the privilege of serving in the king's buttery. It was granted by Henry II. in 1155, in the days when as yet there was no Mayor of Oxford, and was enjoyed down to the coronation of George IV. In Ogle's "Royal Letters addressed to Oxford," p. 3, will be found the claim made in 1413 in Norman French; fifty years later the claim is made in English, as below. Of these citizens who "clothed in one suite rod up to London," we know that Clerke, the Mayor, was a fishmonger; he lived in Fish Street opposite the Public Library; Spragot was Mayor in 1452, and alderman for many years after; Bramwich was bailiff in 1460, Lowe in 1456, Blakeburne in 1461, while Seman was alderman almost continuously from 1450 to 1460. Whether or not the citizens of Oxford were mainly Yorkist, there can be no doubt that these seven when they returned from the coronation were Yorkist through and through; the gracious manners of Edward IV. are well-known, and Tanfield's account shows what was the effect on him when "by our leige Lord's own mouth he was admitte and had great thanks."

First be it understood that at the coronation of Kinge Edward the Forth, John Clerke, fishmonger, that tyme mayor of Oxford, with vi. burgesses clothed in one suite rod up to London. And they lett make a bill of the clayme of his service in the king's butterie to my lord Steward, whose office is to admitt everie officer to his office at the feste, under the forme that foloweth: the superscription,

"Unto the full noble and gracious Lord the heigh steward of England. Shewne to your good and gracious lordshipp the mayor and burgesses of the town of Oxford, that where (=whereas) they and theyre prediceassours, mayors and burgesses of the sayd towne for the time beinge by autoritie of divers graunts and confirmacions, graunted, confirmed unto them by the right noble progenitors of our leigh the kinge that now is, have used and enjoyed, from tyme that noe mynde of man you had unto the contrarie, for to serve our leige lord the kinge for the tyme beinge in his Buttlarie with his citizens of his citie of London at and in his feste of coronation under semable maner and forme as he you served by his sayd citizens at and in the same fest. Wherefore please it you good noble good lord to aaccepte and admitte John Clerke, mayor of the citie of Oxford, and Richard Spragett, Richard Bramwich, John Lowe, John Seman, Thomas Tanfilde, and William Blakburne, burgesses of the sayd towne, for to occupie the said office and to serve with the citizens of the said citie of London in the butterie of our liege lord the king, that nowe is, at and in the feaste of present coronation in seemable maner and forme, as the sayd citizens of the sayd citie shall occupie and serve, and like as the prediceassours of your said suppliants, mayor and burgesses of the sayd towne, in tyme past have used for to doe with all maner of fees, wages, and profits unto them pertayninge by vertue of the sayd office, at the reverence of God and for charitie."

And at the fest was my Lord George, the king's brother and high steward; and for he was but yonge and tender of age, by Lord Wenloke was assigned to hime for to receive the bills; and to hime was assigned of counsell Thomas Younge, a famous learned man to the which though (=therefore) the sayd mayor and his burgesses put their bill afor rehersed, and they were gladly and worsipfully resyvyd and admitte by our leige Lord's owne

mouth; and of the kinge had great thanks for theyre olayme; and one the morrowe at VIII. of the clock the sayd mayor and burgesses were brought to the treasurer of the king's hall by the sayd Lord Wenlocke and Thomas Yonge; they certified the sayd treasurer, whose name was Sir John Skott, knight, how that the kinge had admitt the sayd mair and burgesses for to serve in the Buttilaire. And then the sayd treasurer comaunded officers for to ordayne a place for the mayor and burgesses, and made them sitt to meate, and worshipfully were served and attended by officers. And when they had eaten, the sayd treasurer brought them into the butlerie sayinge theese words to the cheefe butler of that contrie, Richard Forries: "Comyn my brother the

mayor of Oxford for to discharge you of your office at this tyme of this coronation." And he weloomed him well and gladly; and the treasurer leftte us there with the chardge. And the buttler delivered each of the burgesses an aupron and well and goodly enformed us in the sayd office; and bad us comaunde him or any under hime there and wee should have our comaundmente; and so we had. And when the kinge was up, the mayor had for his fees III. ashen cupps that the kinge was served with and great thanks and well commended of our leige lord the kinge. God preserve hime and save the crowne. Amen.

THOMAS TANFELD, Town Clerk.

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## THE ORDINANCES OF THE GILD OF BARBERS.

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So little is known of the Oxford Gilda, that the record here printed is doubly precious. In 1870 a volume, entitled "English Gilda," was issued by the Early English Text Society, but though it contains the statutes of gilda from most of the chief townes of England, it mentions none of the Oxford Gilda. Our record is found in Twyne iv. 128, where Twyne adds that the original was not among the Town Archives, but in his own possession; Langbaine has added a further note: "After the death of Twyne I saw the original in a chest in the possession of his executor in the house of Abel Parker, but I know not what was done with it, and with much besides." The original ordinances were almost certainly in Latin; this English version probably dates from 1498, when the Cappers were united with the Barbers, and accepted the old statutes of the Barbers.

A few words need explaining. One of the ordinances is that in a certain case there was to be a payment of 3s. 4d. for wine-silver for the Regents; the Regents were the Masters of Arts engaged in teaching; as wine in the Middle Ages was worth

6d. to 10d. a gallon, there would be more than four gallons to be divided among the Masters who were present. Another ordinance speaks of "hedge-barbers and ale-baistera." The word "hedge-barber" we can understand; but ale-baister is not to be found in Murray's dictionary; one of the editors, however, has discovered the meaning; as shaving soap was dear in olden days, the lowest class of barbers used froth of ale, and basted therewith. It may be noticed that some of the barbers made wafers and singing-bread.

Some of the ordinances are interesting; for instance, that doctors should keep professional secrets, and the regulations about holding what we should call a consultation. Notice, too, that most people were shaved but once a week, though some went so far as to be shaved twice a week. It seems that in those days patients might not change their doctor; at least these regulations speak as if you might not do it except with the consent of your doctor.

It may be asked what right the University had to make ordinances for the barbers. The answer, no

doubt, is that these barbers were privileged persons, i.e., members of the University, and the University could always make regulations to bind its members, and it is possible that there was another gild of town-barbers; in the same way, there seem to have been two gilds of cooks, college cooks being members of the University formed one gild, while pastry-cooks and keepers of eating shops had another gild.

Anthony Wood has given a small portion of these ordinances in his history, but they have never before been printed in full. The four gaps may by guess be filled thus: "and then all," "and with him shall be," "and then ask whom they choose," "and if they find him chosen." H.E.S.

September 11, 1348.

In the name of our Lord, Amen. For as much as from the beginninge of the world love and amitie hath alway bine [=been] advawnced and increased by laudable societies and brotherly felowship in all maner of crafte, and upon certain protestations made and observed the crafts beinge [=been] more perfectly withouten errors exercised and occupied, as appeareth by the fellowship of mercers, gouldsmiths, and such other; thereupon the tenth day of September, the xxii.nd yeare of the raigne of Kinge Edward the thirde after the conquest of England and the yeare of our Lord one thousand three hundred forthie eight before us, Mr. John Northwode, Dr. of Divinitie, and Chaunceller of the Universitie of Oxford, appeared John Brade, barbour, Richard Fell, barbour and surgen, Thomas Billie, wafeayer [=waferer], and with them the whole company and felowship of barbours dwellinge within the precincts of Oxford forsayd, and (intendinge henceforward to joyne and binde them to more amitie and love amonge themselves) brought with them, redaote in writinge, certayne ordinacons and statuts made by the advise of sadge men for the wele of the crafte of barbours, and besought us to oversee the sayd ordinacons and statute, and yf we found them reasonable and laudable to be observed that wee would so discerne them. The tenors of the sayd ordinacons and statutes here foloweth. First and principally for everie comminaltie or felowship it is accordinge (i.e., fit) to doe some speciall acts of honor to God to purchase his grace and assistance amonge them, withouten which noe maner of comminaltie may prosper. Wherefor the crafte-barbours of Oxford shall yearly keepe and maintayne a light befor our Ladie Chappell of St. Fricwith; for sure con-

tinuance of which light everie man and woman of the sayd crafte keepinge a shop shall pay everie quarter or terme of the yeare 2d., and everie journeyman or servante not a prentice shall pay everie quarter a pennie, soe that the journeyman pay the first pennie within 15 day of his service in Oxford, the master that he serveth to be a suretie for the servante: and theese to be observed and the light continued under payne of VI. VIIIId., whereof IIIs. foute pence to be payd to the Chaunceller and in his absence to the Comissarie, and IIIs. IVd. to the proctors of the Universitie. Alsoe whearas everie Christian man is bounden to observe and keepe the Sondag, none of the barbours within the procincte of Oxford shall neither in thyre owne persons, ne [=nor] by none of theyre servante or a prentise, shave any man on Sunday excepte it be any of the markett Sundays in harveste, or els he that should be soe slaven shall preach or doe any act that day; and whosoe doe contrarie, he shall pay to our Ladies boxe XXd., and to the Chaunceller or Comissarie IIIs. IVd., and to the Procurators XXd., for a penaltie to be warde and as often as he breaketh this ordinance; and in case any hegge-barbour or alebayster or other not agreed with the crafte, keepinge noe barbour shop, shave any man a Sunday in any privatt corner or house, yf it be proved befor the Chaunceller or Comissarie, then the Chaunceller at the instance of the crafte shall comitte the same person to prison unto the tyme the Master of the crafte with wardens give hime libertie befor the Chaunceller to goe att his libertie, he to pay for his offence IIIs., thereof XIIId. to our Ladies Boxe, XIIId. to the Comissarie, XIIId. to the Proctors. Item noe man ne servante of the crafte of barbours or surgerie, knowinge any secret passion or infirmitie, as abomination of stinkinge breth at mouth or nose or any secrett decease in any place of man's bodie, shall in any wise detecte or publish this secrettness to rebuke of the patients under payne of XXs. whereof VI. VIIIId. to our Ladie boxe, VI. VIIIId. to the Chaunceller or in his absence to the Comissarie, VI. VIIIId. to the proctors. Item where it is soe that without an head or cheefetayne noe multitude ne comminaltie can be well ordered, therefor this crafte and felowship of barbours and surgens shall everie yeare chuse and elect one of the company to be for the year master of the craft in the manner and the forme hereafter written, to which master everie person of that crafte shal be obedient dursinge the season and tyme of his office, and everie man to come to the sayd master att any season he will call or monice

[=monish] him lawfully under payne of XIIId. as often as he rebellith or will not after lawfully warning come to the master, and thereof IVD. to our Ladie boxe and IVD. to the Chaunceller or Commissarie and IVD. to the proctors. Item, yf any of the crafte fall at strife, debate, or brawle amongst themselfe, they shall be reformed by the Master and the seniors of the crafte; and not to strike other, under the payne of VIa. VIIIId., thereof IIs. to our Ladie Box and IIs. to the Chaunceller or Commissarie and IIs. VIIIId. to the Procurators. Item, yf any person that hath bine aprentise to the sayd crafte within Oxford will sett up a shop, he shall come and desire the Master and Wardens of the crafte of theyre favoure, and shall give the master and wardens and other of the crafte a dinner, and pay one pound of waxe, and the Master with two wardens and with three other of the crafte of the eldest that hath bine masters shall bringe him to the Chanceller upon theyre showlders, where he shall take his oath to keepe all the ordinations and status of the crafte, and there he shall pay to our Ladie box VIIIId. and to the Chaunceller VIIIId., and soe to be admitted one of the felowship. Item, in case be that any forriner, that never was a prentice at barbours crafte within Oxford, will desire to sett up a shop to occupie as barbour, surgen, or wayferer or makinge of singinge breade or any other occupation that will occupy barbours crafte or surgerie, he shall first give the master and crafte a dinner and one pounce waxe and XXVIa. VIIIId. to our Ladie boxe, and the master with the wardens and with two other of the crafte that hath bine masters shall presente hime to the Chaunceller, and then he shall give hime his oath one [=on] a book to keepe all the ordinances within and sealed for the crafte, and then he shall pay the Chaunceller or commissarie IVa. and to the proctors IVa. and to the regents for wine silver IIIa. IVD. and soe to be admitted one of the societie. Item in case any of the crafte occupie surgerie and hath a strange cure committed unto hime, then shall the taker of this cure come to the master for time beinge and sue [=show] hime the case; then shall the Master in his owne person, yf he be seene in his surgerie, yf noe he shall cause other of his brithren to goe see the paciente and to give his counsell to the taker, for counforte of the sicke and honor of the crafte, and soe the taker of the cure to content them for theyre sight and counsell. Item no man of the crafte of barbours shall entioce or desire any others of theyre brothers customers, neither yett shave them in lesse then they have

contented for shavinge to hime that they were befor shaven with; neither no surgen shall supplante any of his felowship that first ministered to any pacient unlesse then he that first ministered be contented to leave his cure, under payne of Vs.; thereof XXd. to our Ladie boxe, to the Chanceller or Commissary XXd., to the Proctors XXd. Item, yf any man will be shaven at his owne chamber or place and not come to the barbours shopp, everie barbour desired shal be thereto readie, soe he that wilbe soe at home shaven pays VIId. a quarter; and in case he wilbee shaven two tymes a weeke and at his chamber or howse and not att barbours howse, then he pay VIIIId., Xd., or XIIId., as the parties can agree. Item, the Master of the crafte for the tyme beinge shall yearly call together all his brithren of the crafte that keepeth any howse or shopp agaynst the Sunday nexte after the Nativitie of our Ladie, in which day all the felowship shall bringe honestly (i.e., with honour) the master to St. Frieswides and theyre all to have a solemne masse of our blessed Ladie, att which masse everie man of the felowship to offer, and none of the felowship to be absente but by licence of the Master for some necessarie cause; when this masse is ended the whole company doe dine together at a place by the Master and Wardens assigned, and att that place the Master before them sitting at dinner assigne in what place he doth intende to resigne his office, and upon his monition all the company to assemble at the day assigned under payne of XIIId. to the forsayd box. This done they may call to them theyre wives to dinner and everie couple to pay VIIIId., everie sengle that holdeth house or shopp to pay IVD. for theyre dinner; the remnant whatever it be beware what they purvey (? beware that it be not carried away). Item, when the societie or felowship being assembled together at the prefixed daye of the resignation of the office which is the Tuesday after St. Faith's day, then shall the master resigne and leave his office, sayinge under this forme or like sentense, "Brethren, I thanke you I have occupie the roome and name of Master of your crafte this yeare. If I have behaved me otherwise then I should, I trust you will thinke that I did it not of ill-will or malice. And now as I received the office by you, so nowe I resigne and leave myne office into your hands." The wardens shall say all both this wise [then a blank] . . . these done, they all or the more parte shall name one of the company to sereh and knowe the mynde of the brotherhoode or company whom they will have . . . [blank] . . . joyned the yoman

beedle of divinitie and these two, or one of them, shall first reade all these ordinations pertaining to the crafte and hereon written . . . [blank] . . . and electe for the Master, and ever as they treace and knowe for to write by and by, and that done then openly to show who hath most voices, and he to be taken for Master that yeare folowinge . . . [blank] . . . and electe that was Master and resigned even befor for the yeare then past, and he anone to be preferred amonge them and taken for Master; and then the Master soe electe by reason of a prerogative shall name one of the wardens for the yeare then to come, and the more parte of the societie the other, and this don all the company to bringe home honestly the Master, provided alway that in case the felowship forsayd cannot agree at that day in election of the Master, but beinge divided, some naminge one some another person and the voyces beinge equall and no partie will condescend to the other, yf they continue thus all the day of resignation, then for that yeare theyre autoritie shalbe none, but al shalbe devolved to the Chaunceller, to whom the sayd yoman beedle and the other sercher shall sue [=show] it within 3 dayes next then folowinge under payne of VIa. VIIId. to be payd of the boxe, thereof to the Chaunceller IIIa. IVd. and the other IIIa. IVd. to the proctors; and whomsoever then the Chaunceller name and elect master, they all soe to take hime and soe repute hime in everie degree under payne of IIIa. IVd. of everie person that doth not agree thereunto, to be payd to our Ladie boxe; and this Master soe named by the Chaunceller to name one of the wardens and the felowship the other, and they to enjoy for that yeare theyre office. Item, yf there bee any man of the sayd crafte that doth not pay his dutie to his crafte within 15 dayes after the day of the accounts, he to fall in the payne of IIa., thereof one shilling to be payd to our Ladie boxe and one shilling to the Chanceller or his debutie. Item, yf any man of the sayd crafte take one hime to teach any person, child or other, not a prentice, the sayd master or informer [=teacher] of the same person shall first pay VIa. VIIId., whereof IIIa. IVd. to the crafte, XXd. to the Chaunceller, and XXd. to the proctors, and this to be payd within 8 dayes of any that soe taketh one hime to enforme any person, at which paymente the person that shal be enformed, befor the Chaunceller or the Master of the crafte and one warden, shall there sweare on a boke never to occupie (i.e. engage in business) within Oxford or twentie miles aboute unlesse he agree with the partie in Oxford after these

forseyd ordinations, and whoseoe take on him to teach any person not his aprentise in this crafte and observe not theese ordinances shall pay for his offence every tyme as often as he offendeth XXa., whereof VIa. VIIId. to the Universitie, VIa. VIIId. to the Chaunceller and VIa. VIIId. to the proctors. Item, everie yeare the Master and the Wardens shall make toue [=two] accounte of all maner of receipts by them before the more partie of the felowship in writtinge articlees in parcells under payne of XXa. to bee payd by the wardens and Master, to our Ladie box VIa. VIIId., to the Chaunceller or his debutie VIa. VIIId., to the proctors VIa. VIIId. Alsoe the wardens shall answeare for all maner of summs to be alleviate [=levied], and see it payd to our Ladie boxe, to the Chaunceller and procurators and to other according to the forseyd ordinances under payn of XLa. by the sayd wardens to be payd to the Chaunceller and procurators. Item, the sayd societie shall yearly pay XIIId. the day of the election of the Master to the yoman beedle of divinitie for his labours, and he to be reade at theyre assignmente to site [=cite] such as will not obey this writtinge. Item, the sayd societie shall have a certain cheste under 3 keyes whereof the Master to have one key, the 2 wardens shall have the other 2 keyes, and therein these ordinations to be kept, and in the same to keepe the box of theyre godes; in this cheste shalbe putt alsoe the waxe received at the enterie of any of the felowship, if neede bee.

These ordinances and statute at the request and desire of the sayd crafte by us the forseyd written Chaunceller, assistinge unto us Mr. Thomas Stretforde and Mr. Robert Ingramme, procurators of the Universitie, well and rightely overseeing, wee could not but discern them both reasonable and to be observed laudable, and soe at the petition of the said crafte we there deserved [=decreed] them reasonable and laudable to be observed; and where all the sayd crafte offered themselves singularly to give an oath upon the holy evangelist to observe the same statutes, they further required us taking theyre oaths and protestations to deserne the sayd multitude this wise sworne for a societie and brotherly felowship and ofer [=over] the observation of the above written ordinations to approve the same societie to be forward [=henceforward] alway named and reputed the brotherly felowship and societie of barbours; whereupon wee, take in [=taking] theyre oaths there on the holy evangelist, inclined to their petition reasonable, and deserved, also approved, them to be a perpetuall societie named the societie and brotherly felowship of bar-



boura, and in example for tyme to come wee there anon sent them all to St. Frideswides there to heare devoutly a masse and then to name theyre amongst them a Master and two Wardens and a Peere (*sic*) after the order of the aforwritten statuts; and soe they did electe for the Master Thomas Leech barbour, and he then according to the statute named for one warden and 2 Peers (*sic*) Stephen Wayfrier, and the fellowship chose for the other warden Nicholas Jenkyn; and this done the said Master, societie and fellowship came to us agayne prayinge and desiringe to have this inected for a perpetual record and groundly stablishinge of the said societie and fellowship under the seale of the Universitie. At whose contemplacion wee have done these ordinations and records to be in this forme inected and sealed with the seale of the Universitie for a perpetual memorie, grauntinge them that noe man unlesse he will sett up by theyre asente and accordinge to these theyre ordinations shall nether occupie barbours crafte, surgerie, singing bread or wayfers makings within the precincts of Oxford, nor noe other craftsman occupie barboura crafte ne surgerie ne grindinge of rasers, except ye [=he] agree with the crafts aforesaid under payne of XXs., thereof VI. VIIIId. to our Ladie boxe, VI. VIIIId. to the Chaunceller or his debute and VI. VIIIId. to the Procurators; geven the XIth day of September, the XXIInd yeare of the raigne of Kinge Edward the Third after the Conquest of England, and the yeare of our Lord MCCC. fortie-eight, Ric. Selwode beinge mayor of Oxford, Ric. Care [=Cary], John Fallie, John Norton and John Barford then beinge aldermen, John Alstone, John Pigge then beinge bayliffs of Oxford.

In 1499 the hurers or cappers were united with the barbers in one gild, and the following ordinances, taken from Twyne IV. 130, were drawn up at that time. The two trades of barbers and cappers had little in common, but it was not unusual for two small gilds to unite, though their occupations were diverse. The date in the first sentence, MDI., must be an error for MID., for Cardinal Morton died in 1500, and the proctors mentioned towards the end came into office in 1498. Once again we must ask why the confirmation of the gild was given by the Vice-Chancellor, and not by the Mayor. Are we to think that these hurers or cappers were makers of caps for the University only, so that by the old agreement between the Town and University they would be reckoned as servants of scholars and members of the University, though not clerks? But the regulation that "foreign" cappers were

not to give work to the Oxford knitters suggests that the Oxford cappers were of the same kind as cappers in other towns. Must we, then, suppose that the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor had at this time usurped such power over the Town that they claimed to confirm all new gilds? Or is it rather that as the Barbers and Surgeons had from the beginning been a University gild and not a Town Gild, any company that allied themselves with the Barbers would of necessity be subject to the Chancellor?

The word Pome, as a title for a gild official, cannot be found in any dictionary; possibly Twyne mis-read the original. The second of the two gaps in the statutes may be filled with the words "in testimony of these things we"; the first is not so certain; "the ordinance is that none knitters," or "the cappers agree that none knitters," would make sense.

In the name of our Lord, Amen. In the yeare of our Lord MDI., the xxv. day of March, before us William Atwater, doctor of divinitie of Oxforde, and commissarie in the Universitie of Oxford unto the reverend father and lord John Mortone, arch-bysshoppe of Canterburie, prieste cardinall and chaunceller of the sayd Universitie of Oxford, appeared Richard Grimmsbey, master of the societie of barboura in Oxford, and with him 3 staggers that is to say John Mawley, John Hardsonne, and John Camney, and William Shoesmith and Francis Stidesberie, wardens of the some societie, with all the whole bodie of the sayd occupation, and then alsoe with them Robert Aconn, John Furneys, John Collar, and James Capper, hurers, alias cappers; and whereas the above-said barboura and surgens alleged and said theyre that of old antiquitie all such hurers or cappers ought to be of theyre societie to bere and pay with them as brithren of one societie and fellowship, the sayd hurers, alias called cappers, theyre tyme present, and then they not worilis (*sic*) moved by the allegacion of the old custome put, of theyre free liberties and will, condescended to be brithren of the said societie of barboura, and they desired the above sayd master, staggers and wardens of the said craft to take them as brithren of one societie and fellowship. Whereupon the said Master and staggers and wardens and peers and all the Pomes desired us the above sayd commissarie after the forme within forth written to admitte them into the sayd fellowship of barbers; and we taking of the sayd Richard Grimmesbey, Robert Accom, John Furneys, John Collar, and James Capper in oath accordinge to the ordinance

within written to be observed, as well as certayne oaths hereafter writtin, there admitted the same Richard, Robert, John, and James as brithren of the sayd societie of barbouris. The ordinacions concerning hurers in especial bine theese; inprimis, all the sayd hurers that dwell within the procincts of the Universitie of Oxford shalbe obedient to the Master and come att his callinge or warninge to any place assigned by the Master, and beare and pay, and observe all the within forth writtin ordinacions in such things as concerneth them, and over that, theese especial ordinacions concerning hurers or cappers under penalties limited; and they shall enjoy all the liberties and prerogatives of the same craft under forme within forth writtin, as well in givinge theyre voices to the election of the Master and Wardens as other in all things as barbouris and surgens. Alsoe the [here a gap] . . . of capps dwellinge within the procincts of the Universitie of Oxford shall take worke of any foriner as long as they may have sufficient worke of knittinge of the hurers of this societie in Oxford under payne of 1s. as often as any offendeth; whereof 4d. to the Chaunceller or his commissarie, 4d. to the Procurators, and 4d. to the boxe; and yf any foriner bringe worke to be knitt in Oxford after he be once lawfully warned, he shall forfett the stuff to the Chaunceller, and his person to be committed to prison. Alsoe theyre shall none hurer, ne non of the sayd societie, entise away any brother or sisters servante of the societie, ne sett any such a worke within the procincts of the Universitie, unlesse then the servante be lawfully departed from his Master that he was with, under payne of VI. s. VIII. d., whereof 20d. to the Chaunceller (sic) or his commissarie, 20d. to the Procurators, 20d. to the Master Regents for wine, and 20d. to the Ladie boxe. Alsoe in case any Master will not contente or pay his servante wages or dutie, the servante shall first complayne and sowe it to the master and wardens of the societie and then the master and the wardens shall see them have theire dutie, and els they shall bringe the matter to the Chaunceller after it hath bine first shewed among themselves, and then justice to be ministered. And likewise yf any servante misbehave hime or doe not his dutie to his master, yf the Master and wardens cannot reforme it, the matter shall be brought to the Chanceller. Alsoe there shall non of the sayd societie rebuke other, ne disprave theyre worke in lesse then [if unless that] it be first shewed to the Master and wardens, and there to approve it good or disable it, under payne of 1s., to be divided

as it is above specified. Alsoe it shall not be lawfull for any hurer, within the procincts of Oxford dwellinge, to sell a old capp new dressed for a new capp under payne of forfeiture of the same to the Chaunceller and one pounce of waxe to our Ladie light. Alsoe it shall not be lawfull any man to sett up shop of makeinge of caps or of wayfers or of grinding of rasers within procincte of the Universitie of Oxford without he agree and have the consente of the Master and wardens of the crafte and pay to our Ladie boxe twentie shillings, one pounce of waxe, and a dinner, and to the Chaunceller or his commissarie 4s., and to the Mayor of the towne of Oxford 2s., to other four aldermen 4s., to the bailiffs 2s., and the procurators 4s., and to masters regente for wine 3s. 4d. under payne of 40s., whereof 10s. to the box, 10s. to the Chanceller and procurators, 10s. to the Mayor and aldermen, and 10s. to the regents and bayliffs of the towne for wine, provided alway that yf any person that will sett up a hurers shopp have bine aprentise of this societie in Oxforde, then he shall enjoy the liberties that any aprentise of barbouris shall, as it appeareth within forth. Alsoe hurers or cappers shall observe and keepe all the ordinacions for payments and duties, amerements and penalties, as be within forth written for barbouris. Alsoe in case the knitters marre cap or any worke or make not of good and customable fashon for the buyers, they shall unknitt it again and knitt it anew at theyre prise costs, or els pay for the stuffe and take the capp to themselves. Alsoe any hurer or capper shall pay for knittinge of capps or other worke after reasonable custome and noe man to goe beyond that reasonable custome to the hinderance of his neighbour or brother, under payne of 6s. 8d., to be applied to the Chaunceller or commissarie, procurators, regents, and to our Ladie boxe as is above sayd. Alsoe yf any journeyman come to this towne of Oxford to seeke worke of hurers, yf he be not sett a worke, the masters of the occupation shall give hime money to bringe hime twentie miles of his way. Alsoe there shall none hurer occupie barbouris crafte by his owne person ne by servante, nether barbers hurers crafte, unlesse then he hath bine aprentise in both crafts within the precincte of Oxford, under payne of 20s., whereof 6s. 8d. to the Chanceller or commissarie, 6s. 8d. to the Procurators, and use VIII. pounce to our Ladie light; provided alway that noe man shall sett up shop of makeinge of capp or hurers within the procinct of the Universitie aforesaid, unlesse then first to be admitted as a freeman in the towne of Oxford.

Furtherfore, for a firmacion and establishinge of this union of hurers and cappers to the societie of barboura, the whole societie instantly desired us Mr. William Atwater the afforsayd commissarie and Mr. Hugh Brusey and Mr. John Lethome, procurators of the sayd Universitie assistente to us, to ratifie

under the seale of the Universitie all these ordinances and injunctions of hurers alias called cappers to one societie. And [a gap] . . . by the assent of the congregation of Master regents to these presents have done the seale of the University to be sett on.

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## A LECTURE ON THE WALLS OF OXFORD.

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Any history of the walls of Oxford must begin with such facts as are given in the Patent Rolls and Close Rolls. From the year 1199 the walls, bridges, roads, etc., were rented from the King by the citizens, and were repaired by them at their own expense, whenever the King commanded; but if a large outlay was needed he would give them permission to levy a tax, and his permission was entered on the Patent Rolls. The first mention of the walls of Oxford in the Patent Rolls is in 1228. On Sept. 16 the King was at Oxford, and on the 19th issued to the City his permission to levy murage for two years. Murage is a word which has two meanings, but here it means custom levied on goods brought into the market. The Patent Rolls record frequent grants of murage to the chief towns of England, and the schedule of charges permitted by the King varied little from town to town or age to age; the schedule of a murage granted to Oxford, probably in 1328, has been printed by the Oxford Historical Society ("Oxford City Documents," p. 304), and it was then, as also in the reign of Henry III., something less than one per cent. on the value of the goods. If the money was spent on walls it was called murage, if on bridges pontage, if on paving pavage. This grant

of murage was prolonged four times, and did not cease until 1840.

On April 17, 1227, the King sent a writ to the bailiffs that those householders who were bound to repair the wall should be distrained to repair that part for which they were responsible; and four months later he sent the names of thirty-four who were to be so distrained. This brings us to the second sense of the word murage, namely, a payment due from certain houses in Oxford which from time immemorial were bound to keep a part of the wall in repair. These were the mural mansions, mentioned in Domesday Book, which were responsible for the repairing of certain portions of the wall, no one knows where; but we assume that the whole circuit of the wall was divided between these houses, for the reason that from 1155 to 1199, when the City with its walls was in the hands of the King, the Pipe Rolls show that though the King spent much on the walls and towers of the Castle, he spent nothing on the walls of the town; yet something must have been necessary in forty-four years. We may assume, therefore, that the mural mansions were responsible for the whole wall. They were called mural not because they were on the wall, but because they repaired it.

Lincoln College kitchen was one of these houses; another was in Cornmarket near Buol's. If the owner of the house did not do his duty to the wall, his house was forfeited; and this sometimes happened, for St. John's Hospital bought from the King a house near the churchyard of St. Peter-in-the-East, which had been forfeited because of its duty of mending the walls.

It would be well to notice the words of the King's writ; he says these houses were bound to repair the wall; therefore at this time there was some repairing of old walls as well as building new, and it is obvious that a house which must answer for mending a wall could not be compelled to erect a new one, better and more expensive.

It may be added that this second kind of murage is found again in 1251, when some members of the University who occupied mural mansions claimed that they need not pay their murage because clerks were exempt from taxes of this kind; it was decided that they must pay, but we hear of it no more in later years, and in the next century, as we shall see, another method was devised to cover the repairs of the wall.

In April, 1228, the King remitted a fine of 52 marks which the town had incurred, on condition that the money was laid out on the walling of the town; and next year the Abbot of Abingdon gave to Oxford brushwood or coppewood for two platforms for the building operations on the wall, the King in recompense allowing him to enclose the woodland he had cleared. Mr. Parker has suggested that the brushwood was for a platform of hurdle work, where we should use planks. Two years later, in 1231, the King made two grants of brushwood for platforms; and in 1233, the work being so far advanced that the wooden floors of the bastions were in making, the King gave 100 oak trees from Brill forest for joists and planks for the bastions. A complete bastion, as in New College Garden, would require three floors as well as a roof. On May 12, 1234, the King sends a writ to the Mayor of Oxford that he desires the building of the walls to be hastened, and names five citizens who are to aid the mayor in his work. Next year the King remitted a fine of £35 which had been laid on the town for the escape of certain robbers, the money to be applied to the walling of the town. At Michaelmas, 1240, the grant of murage ceased, and we may assume that the building was completed as far as was necessary at that time. On later occasions there were grants of murage, but we hear no more of gifts of brushwood, or oak

trees, or remission of fines. Evidently such building as was done afterwards was not so extensive or so costly.

In 1251 murage was granted for three years; in 1257 for five years, and in 1283 for five years. There is a charter of the King dated March 26, 1257, printed in Ogle's Royal Letters to Oxford, in which it is mentioned that the town has permission to build bastions for the advantage of the King and of the communalty of Oxford; some, therefore, of the bastions date from 1257. In 1285 there was a murage for four years; and it is likely that the tower on South Bridge, called in the 16th century "The Folly," and later known as Friar Bacon's Study, was built at this time; for when we first hear of it about 1300 it is called New Gate. In 1301 there was murage for five years, in 1321 for five years, and in 1326 for three years, but none afterwards. When we deal with North Gate we shall see that there was building there in 1327 and earlier; but whatever was done must have been little, for in 1325, and again in 1330, the King, saying that he has been informed that little or nothing of the murage collected had been spent on the walls, caused inquest to be made; we do not know the result; it was evidently found to be a false accusation in 1325; but in any case the building done between 1321 and 1330 cannot have been much, if it was a question whether anything had been done at all.

We pass to 1371, when the King commanded the wall to be repaired and the ditch cleaned. There is no mention of this in the Patent Rolls, but the Letters Patent are in the Town Archives and have been printed in Ogle's Royal Letters to Oxford; also the accounts of the Town Chamberlains, of which we have extracts in Twyne, record that the Abbot of Oseney gave five marks this year towards the repair of the walls, and the grant of the King permitted the mayor to impose for this purpose what we should call a rate on all those who owned rents or lands in the town or suburbs or made profit by trade.

Finally, in 1378 Richard II., in much the same words as his grandfather, Edward III., commanded the walls to be repaired, saying that they were weak and ruinous and the ditch choked, so that if his enemies from France invaded England the city would not be able to resist them. It was on this occasion that great discord arose. In a deed of 1380, preserved in the City Archives, the King says that he has received information that when the mayor and bailiffs at no slight cost had cleansed

the city ditch, certain men on the part of the Warden and scholars of Merton issued forth in armed array, and, asserting that a public road of the Warden and scholars was blocked with the earth and sand which had been drawn from the ditch, threw it back with carts into the ditch. It has been assumed that the road in question was in Christ Church Meadows by the wall of Merton; but if a road existed there it could not be the property of Merton. No doubt the road was Holywell Street, and the partisans of Merton were the tenants of the Merton manor of Holywell. To this occasion we may assign an undated Parliamentary petition which has been printed by the Oxford Historical Society. In it the Warden of Merton petitions the King to recall a grant which the mayor and burgesses of Oxford have obtained from him that they may make a ditch round the city 200ft. wide. Merton College would of course be injured by this grant; for a ditch 200ft. wide would rob them of all their land on the south side of Holywell Street. The Account Roles at Queen's College record that the sum of twelve pence was contributed towards the repair of the wall of Oxford between June, 1378, and June, 1379.

Such then is the history of the wall from the Patent Rolls and the Close Rolls, running back to the year 1228; but we know that there was a wall long before this. We have seen that at the time of Domesday there were houses called mural mansions, and had been in the days of Edward the Confessor. This proves that there was a wall before 1228; and probably we have forty charters about houses in Oxford earlier than 1240 which speak of the walls. It is true that a great authority at one time maintained that the wall was only a wooden palisade; but there is not a jot of evidence that it was so, and a palisade would no more be called "murus" in the Middle Ages than it would be called "wall" by us.

Not only was there a stone wall before 1228, but it must have been on the site of the later wall. Assume for a moment that in 1228 it was decided that the wall should follow a new line. It would be necessary to buy or seize private property and evict the inhabitants. But if in 1228 there had been a large displacement of freeholders by force or purchase, the Patent Rolls and other records would bear traces of it. Such things could not be done without lawsuits, outcries, and petitions to the King. Further, there is the positive evidence found in local charters earlier than 1228, which describe houses with reference to the walls. There

are at least 250 charters about houses in Oxford which are earlier than 1200, and 500 earlier than 1228, which give us fixed points for the reconstruction of early Oxford, and we cannot treat the Oxford of 1228 as a *tabula rasa*, about which every man may have his guess. About Saxon times we are at liberty to guess; after 1154, or even after 1121, that must cease; we know that in 1121 North Gate and East Gate stood where they stood in 1771, and all the churches of Oxford were in existence except St. Giles's; and if anyone will maintain that the wall in 1228 diverged more than twenty yards from the earlier wall, it would be possible to refute him by early charters. There was, therefore, a wall of Oxford before 1228, and it stood on the line of the later wall, but no doubt it was of simple make. The wall of Chichester in Norman times, as also of Canterbury, was a mound of earth faced with stone, and at Southampton that part which is considered to be Norman is of this kind; and there are indications that the wall of Oxford was a plain stone wall ten or twelve feet high, without bastions, and with a mound of earth behind it, on which the defenders stood. This would explain why there was a vacant space within the north and east walls. We can understand that in any town there should be a roadway inside the wall for the convenience of the defenders, but in Oxford in mediæval times there was also a strip of land between the wall and the road, for which the town had no use. If originally there was a mound of earth inside the wall, when the mound was removed, in the reign of Henry III., there would remain a strip of waste.

In dealing with the wall that was built in 1228 no one seems to have asked what it cost or who paid. If we remember that the wall, at all events on the north side, has an average height of 18 feet from the foundation, and a thickness of 7 feet at the base and five feet at the top, while the bastions are  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet thick, anyone may reckon how many thousand tons of stone would be required. The Pipe Rolls have been searched between 1228 and 1231 to see whether the King contributed, but he gave nothing beyond what has been already mentioned.

We also should like to know why the town undertook this expense. We may feel sure that it was not because they were anxious to resist the French King or any other foe. As long as Oxford was allowed to govern itself, they cared not who governed England. Nor was it to embellish their city or because they had a pride in it. Oxford,

like the rest of England, was strictly utilitarian in the Middle Ages, and no expense was incurred by the Town or the University merely because it would add dignity to the place. That Oxford should have strong walls was of interest to the King, and the King only; and as the burgesses rented the town from the King, he could compel his tenants to put the walls in order, by threatening to terminate their lease. Walls, therefore, which seemed to the King sufficient before 1199 seemed insufficient in 1228.

We have seen that the Patent Rolls describe the work between 1228 and 1240 as partly a repairing of the old wall and partly new building. In 1240 therefore, part of the old wall remained. It is possible that it was all destroyed subsequently, but it is also possible that portions of it may still be found here and there on the outer face, especially near the ground. When the excavations were made in 1899 north of the Bodleian, the wall was cut at about eight places and four or five times, to judge from the drawings, it was found to have two thicknesses—an outer wall of about 2½ feet thick with a pronounced lean or batter, backed by a newer wall four feet thick. In New College the wall is evidently of more than one date; by the ante-chapel is a small piece, on which the chapel buttresses rest; it was evidently rebuilt by William of Wykeham, and looks comparatively modern; the bastions are of an older style and their shape pronounces them to be not earlier than 1220 or later than 1300; possibly a still older wall may be seen in certain places on the outer face, especially where the batter is most marked. Of course, the battlements and the thick backing wall, providing the walk for the defenders, are not earlier than 1228.

We will now make a rapid circuit of the wall on its north and east sides.

For those who are not familiar with the map of mediæval Oxford, it may be explained that on the north side and round as far as east gate there was a moat outside the wall, and outside the moat a road, represented now by George Street, Broad Street, Holywell Street, and Long Wall. Between this road and the moat there were no houses except one or two at the east end of Broad Street. Inside the wall there was also a road, of which portions remain in St. Michael's Street, Ship Street, and the beginning of New College Lane; the rest of it was acquired and enclosed by Exeter College, the University, and New College. Between this road and the wall there was a strip of land varying in

width from twenty to forty feet, which was leased by the town to various tenants. Wood and others say that it was called the Underwall, but no such name was given to it in the Middle Ages, and "sub muro" is generally used of the houses on the south side of the street facing the wall. On this strip of waste there were a few cottages, and east of St. Michael's Church two houses of a less mean character, but most of the land was used for gardens. The Oxford Historical Society has printed from Twyne a complete rental for the year 1387, giving the tenants of the town land that adjoined the walls, telling how many bastions they rented and what they paid, so that we can reconstruct the whole circuit of holdings from the Castle to the south-east corner of the town. In some of the leases, of which Twyne has left us copies, it was laid down that the wall should not be injured; but even so, this leasing of the bastions to be turned into outhouses and cottages is a curious proceeding; nor was it a corrupt practice of a corrupt age; as early as 1311, and earlier, as we shall see, the town showed this same magnificent indifference to its walls. We cannot doubt that the town would have sold them as soon as they were built had it been allowed; but as it did not own them, but only leased them, neither streets nor walls could be alienated without the King's permission.

Starting from the Castle ditch, the first gateway shown in the map of Agas is a postern at the end of Bullock's Lane. This may be the postern which was made in 1460, costing 3s. 3d., as we learn from extracts from the Town accounts (Twyne 23, 247); it is described as "a postern near the Castle," and can be nowhere but here.

Next to this, Wood says there was a postern where New-Inn-Hall Street now breaks through into George Street, and that traces of it could be seen in his time; but no documentary evidence of it has been found. If it existed it was probably a private postern, like those in New College Gardens, and though Agas's map is somewhat perished at this point, it seems clear that he marked no postern.

We now come to North Gate, over which was the Town prison, commonly called Bocardo. A plan of it was made by Gwynne, the city architect, in 1770 before it was pulled down, and is now in the British Museum. The first and most striking point in this plan is the great length of the gate from north to south; it was more a tunnel than a gate, being 70ft. long and only 11 to 12 feet wide. Without footway and without light, it must have been an unpleasant place to pass. The plan also

shows that Mr. Alden's shop-front was part of Bocardo. It is commonly said that his shop is on the site of a bastion outside the gate, the authority for this statement being that old pictures of the gate show a curving house or bastion on the west side. No doubt there was such a house, but Gwynne's plan proves that it was to the north of Mr. Alden's, and is now Nos. 33 and 34. It seems that the gate was made longer and longer as the size of the prison was increased. In 1311 the King sent a writ to the mayor and bailiffs saying that whereas scholars imprisoned for slight offences ought to be imprisoned in a place apart from the prison of robbers, the bailiffs of Oxford having pulled down a building set apart for such scholars have refused to rebuild it or make another, and imprison scholars with robbers, to the disgrace of the University. He commands that this is not to be. (Twyne 4, 66.) Two years later, nothing having been done, he sends a second writ saying that scholars and others of good condition who are imprisoned for debts or small offences are not to be thrust into the common prison with robbers, murderers, and felons, but are to be kept in some honest place (Twyne 4, 64). Shortly before this, in 1305, the King sent a writ to the mayor and bailiffs that whereas he had commanded them to have two prisons, one for men and one for women, he learns by the petition of the Chancellor of the University that nothing has been done; he therefore orders them to make two prisons at once (Twyne 4, 51). In 1311 we read of 50s. spent on the repair of the prison lately made for women (Twyne 23, 134), and in 1326 there is mention of the Maiden Chamber, as it was called, while next year a small amount of money was spent on the building of the prison for women (Twyne 23, 237, and 244). It appears from a lease of 1393 that this prison for women was the west tower outside the North Gate; in that year the City granted to Richard Cudlington a lease of a vacant tower on the west side of the North Gate called the Maiden Chamber. Subsequently it was let as a private house, and, as Gwynne's plan shows, lost some of its circular shape, if it ever had much. Probably it extended further west than in Gwynne's plan; for Peshall, describing it as the house of Mr. Terry, says that it contained a room 40ft. long by 20ft. broad and 12ft. high; and it is said that in Wood's time it was a dancing school. It is obvious that no ordinary bastion would contain a room 40 feet long. Traces of ancient building have been found in Mr. Grubb's and Mr. Alden's premises, a vaulted stone cellar in the latter, and a cellar

with a ruined stone staircase in the former, but in both cases west of the buildings given in Gwynne's plan.

In the length of Bocardo there was probably more than one gate. We hear of the portcullis in 1314, when it was mended, and in 1326, when a piece of timber was bought for it; we also hear of the house over the portcullis (Twyne 23, 238, and 243), and of a gate fastened by a chain.

In the rental of 1387, mentioned before, we read of a tower on the east side of North Gate which was let by the City as a residence, and Agas represents the gate with a tower on each side.

Anthony Wood in one place implies that the North Gate was not the original Town prison, but he gives no evidence for his statement. In 1239, when the tenement on the west side of Bocardo, now the back of Mr. Underhill's shop, was given to Oseney Abbey, it was described as "juxta carcerem," next to the prison. From the year 1199, when the City became self-governing, there must have been a town prison, and no site for it is known except North Gate.

In digging the foundations for the new hotel at the corner of George Street something of interest was discovered. The walls of the hotel rest on the gravel, which was found all over the site at a depth of 18 to 21 feet, with black mud above it. Two human skeletons were found lying on the gravel, possibly the bones of those who, having committed suicide, were thrown into the ditch. That suicide was common in Oxford in the Middle Ages is proved by the Coroner's Inquests. On the east boundary next to the street a wall was cut resting on the gravel; it ran north and south, but was not met until twenty feet down, because it has a strong batter to the east; it is therefore unknown how much of this wall remains. No doubt it was the retaining wall for the causeway which led to North Gate. It explains, what it would otherwise be difficult to understand, how the ditch could be twenty feet deep yet so near the road. Probably there is a similar wall on the north side beneath George Street—or, as it was called in the Middle Ages, Irishman's Street—for on this side also we have a moat 20 feet deep within 10 feet of a road; this demands a wall. The hotel incloses on two sides the building which we have taken to be the prison for women, and gave us an opportunity to learn how far its walls descended. It was found that they were thick and ancient, but failed to reach the gravel by six feet, and rest on black mud, so that they have now been underpinned. It is evi-

dent that this wall was built after the ditch existed, and it is doubtful whether it can be as old as the fourteenth century; for in the excavations three spurs were found which are known by their shape to be of about the years 1380, 1480, and 1580; they were at a depth of 9 feet, 12 feet, and 18 feet respectively. From this we learn that at the end of the 14th century the ditch had less than 6 feet of mud in it.

We can push these discoveries further by the work which was done when the Leopold Arms was pulled down between Mr. Underhill's on the south and Mr. Alden's on the north. It was then found that the whole of Bocardo as given in Gwynne's plan, except the south-east portion, was built in the ditch and rested on black mud, while the north wall of Mr. Underhill's shop, descending 22 feet to the gravel, with the black mud against its northern face, was proved to be the original town wall. The first compartment of Bocardo at the south-east rested on the gravel, and its foundation beneath the front of the public-house seemed like the base of a square tower, answering to the tower of St. Michael's. This, then, would be the original gate; yet what lies north of it cannot be modern, for if Mr. Grubb's shop is on the site of the Maiden Chamber built about 1330, what lies south of it must have been taken in from the ditch before that date. As the population of Oxford is known to have increased rapidly between 1200 and 1250, it is likely that an enlargement of the prison would be necessary; afterwards a prison was built for the University and another for women; and in every case the site was obtained by pushing the moat northward, so that the end of Irishman's Street became a narrow neck. After 1320 the population of Oxford began to dwindle, and before long the prison was too large.

If this is the right reconstruction of the history of Bocardo, it will be seen that before 1228 St. Michael's tower was actually at the side of the gate and served as a defence. There is evidence that the land adjoining the tower on the north and south sides was not originally part of the churchyard, and in fact until recent years the town owned a house built on the south side. When the tower is figured to jut out beyond the churchyard, its military purpose is more apparent.

The water for the ditch at North Gate may have been obtained from springs at the east end of Broad Street. It is said that before the drainage of Oxford water was to be found there at a depth of 8 or 10 feet. As North Gate and the east end of

Broad Street are of the same level, such a source would give a depth of 10 feet of water at North Gate. Unless the cellars beneath the shops of Mr. Alden and Mr. Grubb were below water level, which is not likely, the moat could not have had more than 12 feet of water at the moat.

East of North Gate we come to a bastion, formerly used as a house, now a furniture store of Messrs. Baker. It is sometimes called the Martyrs' Bastion, but there is no reason to think that the martyrs were imprisoned in that or any other bastion. To the east of this is a bastion now used as the kitchen of No. 15, Ship Street. It is mentioned in 1423, when the Town Chamberlains paid for the repair of the "turrell opposite Lawrence Hall." Lawrence Hall was on the south side of Ship Street, 30 or 40 yards from Turl Street.

Passing eastward we come to Turl Gate. The only new point to bring forward here is that the name and the gate are both comparatively modern. The name Turl has not been found before the reign of Elizabeth, and that no gate existed in 1451 is proved by a lease copied by Twyne; by it the city in that year dimised to Hugh, glover, a garden and cottage beneath the town wall, hard by Laurence Hall, "opposite the lane leading to All Saints' Church" (Tw. 23, 184). This garden, therefore, occupied the space where the gate subsequently was. In many early charters Smith Gate is described as next to North Gate. Thus when St. Stephen's Hall was given to Exeter College it is called a house opposite the town wall between the North Gate and Smith Gate, showing that Turl Gate did not exist; three centuries later the wording would have been between Turl Gate and Smith Gate. Various derivations have been given for the word Turl; Hearne guessed that it stood for Torald Street, Torald being a citizen who died about 1230. Others have suggested that the word is Saxon; but if the name is modern, neither of these derivations is possible. Wood says that it is the word twirl, and that there was a twirl or twisting gate revolving on a post at this hole in the wall. No doubt this is the true origin. For many years "The Turl" meant, not the street, but the gate, and in a deed at Magdalen College as late as 1773 the street running past Lincoln College is called, not The Turl, but the street leading from the Turl to the High Street. A plan in the University archives shows what its state was at that time—a narrow alley eight feet wide between shops. That Turl Gate cannot be ancient is impressed on us by the situation of the town ditch. Until it was dry a postern



at this position would be of no use. At what date the ditch was dry we do not know; certainly not in the reign of Richard II., who commanded that it should be scoured; and in 1410 the town received 2s. from the rent of water at Smith Gate (Tw. 23, 242), showing that the ditch contained some water and apparently some long-suffering fish.

East of Turl Street we have two leases of a garden described as opposite Exeter College, lying between the wall and the road called Somner's Lane; one of them is worth notice for the words it uses. In 1405 the city leased this garden to John Morton for a term of years (Tw. 23, 400), but he was not to make ditches or caverns near the town wall. This implies that it was not unlikely that he would wish to do so, and we know from many instances that tenants would dig for gravel or sand unless their lease forbade it. Now, when the house of the Rector of Exeter was built some 30 years ago, just on this site, it was found that the soil had been moved, and in consequence Mr. Parker in his early History of Oxford has hazarded the suggestion that at this point there were two moats, one within and one without the wall. A more likely suggestion is that the house stands on disused gravel-pits.

We pass eastward again. Excavations made in 1899 proved that the city wall, after running due east through Exeter College, turned towards the north-east at the bastion between the Bodleian and the Clarendon Building, and its position is now marked by lines chiseled in the pavement. At the same time an ancient wall was brought to light turning towards the south-east at the spot where the later wall turned to the north-east. It was built in an unusual manner with a course of stones set in what is called herring-bone fashion. On architectural grounds experts considered it archaic, and as the bastion was bonded into it, it is certainly earlier than the reign of Henry III. It could not be traced more than a few yards, as it passed beneath the Bodleian, nor has it been found elsewhere; but many are inclined to think that we here have the original east wall of Oxford, dating between 900 and 1000, before the east suburb was taken in.

The gate at the end of Cat Street was called Smith Gate from early times, certainly from the year 1200. At its east side is an octagonal house, once a chapel. In a rental of town property in 1376 we find it received "from the vicar of St. Peter's-in-the-East for occupying a tower at Smithgate together with the image of St. Mary," and it is the same in later rentals. The vicar therefore was

allowed to lease this bastion for a chapel, and he would take the offerings that were made there. Some would identify it with the chapel of St. Mary, which was constructed by St. Edmund of Abingdon. We read of this chapel in the testimonial sent by the University of Oxford when the canonization of St. Edmund was under consideration. The letter asserts that when St. Edmund was teaching at Oxford, probably about the year 1200, he built a chapel of St. Mary in the parish where he lived, where St. Mary's mass might be said. This would naturally mean that he built a chapel in his parish church, and we know that chapels of St. Mary existed in St. Martin's, St. Michael's North, St. Mary Magdalen, and St. Peter's-in-the-East by the middle of the 13th century. It is most unlikely that in the troublous day of John any private individual would have been allowed to occupy a tower which guarded one of the gates of the city.

We now reach that part of the wall which is occupied by New College. Our records begin with Mar. 28, 1311, when the town, with the King's permission, granted to the Trinitarian Friars a perpetual lease of the strip of land within the walls "extending from the first postern next to the Smithgate as far as the corner of the wall, and from the corner southward to the chapel of the Trinitarians over the east gate." The postern next to Smithgate is described in a deed of 1388 as "opposite Black Hall." But Black Hall was next to Hart Hall, and is now represented by a somewhat new portion of Hertford College opposite Mr. Parker's shop in New College Lane. Hell Passage, therefore, marks the postern, and the land eastward from Hell Passage has belonged to New College from 1379. The deed of 1311 says that the strip along the north wall was 990 feet long by a perch and a half wide, and along the east wall 429 feet by 19 feet. These measurements are nearly accurate; from Hell Passage to the north-east corner is about 1,040 feet, but the width, as can be seen at Hell Passage, was full two perches. Part of this strip was coveted by the University in early times; for among the Parliamentary Petitions (printed of the O.H.S. in Collectanea, Vol. iii. p. 110) is a petition to the King from the Masters and Scholars of the University that he will grant them "a vacant plot within Smithgate in the parish of St. Peter-in-the-East, adjoining the wall," measuring 12 perches long by two perches wide, for the building of new schools, the numbers of the University being so great that more schools were required. As the distance from Hell Passage to Smithgate is

less than 12 perches, the land must have been on the east side of the passage. The petition is assigned by the Editor to the reign of Edward II.; but the deed we have already quoted proves that the date must be before 1311; a probable date is 1303.

In 1379 William of Wykeham acquired from the Town part of the road which ran within the wall extending, as the deed says, to "a postern in the eastern wall called Windsor's postern." It was so called because John de Windsor and Margery, his wife, rented from the Town a plot of land outside the east wall ("Oxford City Documents," p. 303; O.H.S.), which land was reached through this postern. In 1388 the Bishop acquired a further stretch of this road, from Windsor's postern to "the ancient postern next to East Gate," with permission to close Windsor's postern and "all the other posterns east from Black Hall." To this day there are at least three posterns to be traced in the wall in New College garden.

From Smithgate to Eastgate the wall was double, a feature not found at any other point, as far as is known. An old map of the year 1660 preserved at Merton shows the double wall on the north side, but the real proof of its existence is supplied by documents. The Oxford Historical Society has printed a rental of 1387 ("Oxford City Documents," p. 303), giving the tenants of the lands adjoining the walls. Among them is John de Windsor, whose tenement is described as near Crowell and "between the walls of the Town," Crowell being a spring outside the N.E. corner of the Town; another tenant is John Shirburn, whose holding was from Smithgate to Crowell, being "between the town walls." In 1336 (Twyne 23, 394) the City granted to Joan, widow of William Levet, a lease of land on the north side of Eastgate, "between the two stone walls," to the tower opposite Crowell (i.e., the corner bastion). We can even trace this double wall as early as 1311: for when the land within the wall was granted to the Trinitarians, "together with the easement of the walls and bastions," it was stipulated that the wall should not be injured and that the burgesses should have "ingress and egress through two posterns to certain plots of land belonging to the city extending from Smith Gate to East Gate, which plots are between the two stone walls." Further, this deed is declared to be only a renewal of an earlier lease; we may therefore say that the two walls existed by the year 1300, and possibly long before.

The knowledge that the wall was double solves some of our puzzles. When William of Wykeham was planning to build the chapel tower he obtained leave to pull down the "town wall" and rebuild it four feet to the north to obtain a site for his tower 40 feet square. Now the Slipe at this point is 36 feet wide and does not vary; if, then, the main wall was rebuilt four feet to the north its width would be 32 feet; but William of Wykeham meant the outer wall when he spoke of the "Town wall." Again, Anthony Wood says that in his time the Town wall over against Holywell was fallen down; but he was not thinking of the main wall, which stands to this day and belongs to New College, but of the north wall, which belonged to the Town. Once more, a statement in the Town Records has often been quoted that in 1583 search was made for the foundation of the Town Wall by Smithgate that it might be known whether Merton had encroached upon the property of the Town. From this it has been argued that the Town wall had disappeared near Smithgate, so that when Agas represents it in his map as standing he cannot be believed. But the wall in question was the outer wall on the Slipe, being the boundary between the Merton manor of Holywell and the property of the Town. The site in question would be the south wall of the Indian Institute; the Institute is in the parish of Holywell; the shop next to it on the south is in the parish of St. Peter-in-the-East and belongs to the Town.

If Agas is not inaccurate in this point he is inaccurate in another. There were five bastions between Smithgate and the N.E. corner of the Town, one in Hell Passage, one on the site of the Tower, and three still to be seen in New College. These divide the wall into six equal portions. But Agas divides the wall into five equal portions, and finding that he has omitted the Tower, he tries to insert it, but places it on the wrong side of the wall. Whittlesey and Hollar reproduce this blunder, showing what little trust can be placed in these early maps.

It may here be mentioned that in the summer of 1910, when the garage was built at the corner of Longwall, a hole was sunk on the north face of the outer town wall to a depth of 13 feet, at which level the gravel was reached and running water. The wall, which was found to be roughly built and about two feet thick, had black mud resting against its face, and its foundations were not reached. The moat was found to be not more than 14 feet deep

at any spot, and towards the street there was no trace of it.

Between the two eastern walls the citizens had a fish pond; for in 1388 the Town promised to William of Wykeham that it would do away with the pigeons "which are in a dove-house in an outer wall between Smithgate and Eastgate, and with the fishponds and pools beneath the tower at the corner, on the east and south of it, between the two stone walls." There was also a fishpond further south. In 1316 the Town bought 120 pickeralls at 6s. 8d. "to stock the pond of the Comminalty at Eastgate," and paid 4s. 5d. for "little fish to feed the said fish." In 1319 the pond was dragged at a cost of 9d., and the fish were sold for 20s. In 1396, when the King was staying with the Carmelites at Beaumont, the City sent him a gift of fish, and on the same occasion paid 11d. to men to watch the fishpond at night; no doubt they feared the poaching of the King's undisciplined soldiers.

We have seen that in early times the repairing of the wall was laid upon the "mural mansions," but towards the end of the reign of Edward III. a new method arose, and the Town began to grant leases of land within or without the wall on condition that the tenant repaired the wall adjoining his holding. An instance may be given from the archives of New College. In 1378 the City leases to Adam de la Ryver "because of his laudable services in supervising the workmen who are repairing the wall" a piece of land to the north of Windsor's postern, on condition that he keeps in repair that piece of the town wall which adjoins his land. Ten years later the City followed this precedent on a larger scale, when it granted to William of Wykeham all the town wall that adjoined his land on condition that he kept it in repair.

We now reach East Gate. A plan of it, made in 1771 and now preserved in the British Museum, shows that it projected after the manner of North Gate, and in fact almost reached Longwall. It was

not vaulted, like North Gate, but was only a wall with a door in it. Mr. Hurst states, though he gives no authority, that this gate was made in the reign of James I., and its appearance in old prints corresponds with this date. Of the earlier gate we know very little, but the drawing in Agas, which is clearer in the original than in the modern reproduction, shows a square gateway without bastions. There can be no doubt that this earlier gateway was vaulted, and that the chapel of Holy Trinity was above it. In the ordnance survey the chapel is wrongly placed on the north side of the gate, perhaps because in some old deeds it is described as "ultra" the East Gate; but "ultra" in mediæval Latin often means above and in the cartulary of St. Frideswide it is always described as "supra" the East Gate. It was given to St. Frideswide's by Henry I. in 1121, and two centuries later the canons gave it to the Trinitarian Friars, who were established outside the East Gate; probably it was acquired by the Town when the monasteries were dissolved. This history of the chapel carries the East Gate back to the time of Henry I. at the least. At Smith Gate and South Gate the City owned towers or bastions; at North Gate and Little Gate it also owned the building over the gate; but at East Gate it seems to have owned nothing but a small shop.

It is not proposed to deal with the south wall in this paper. We have but little documentary evidence about it, but it would be possible to prove that from East Gate round to the Castle there was no moat; also that from the south end of King Street there was no road running within the walls corresponding to the road on the north side; also that from the south-east corner of the wall to the Castle there was no strip of waste land within the wall. These facts suggest that the strengthening of the wall which was effected on the north side in the reign of Henry III. was not carried beyond the S.E. corner, and that on the south side the old wall, though it was repaired from time to time, was never thickened.

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